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20-Year Vietnamese Exodus Enters Its Final, Tragic Phase

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

MORONG, Philippines — Tran Ba is so desperate to avoid being forced back home to Vietnam that in a protest this month he doused himself with kerosene in front of horrified Philippine guards and threatened to light a match.

"Next time, I will light the match," said Mr. Ba, who left Vietnam four years ago believing he had been promised a new life in the United States.

Ta Thi Ngoan, 53, a tailor who has been detained here since 1988, has told the guards that she was prepared to kill herself and her 10 children if they were returned to Vietnam.

"If I go back to Vietnam, I will go straight to prison," she said.

Her neighbor, Kim Thi Ng, said several families in the detention camp here had stored rat poison.

"People are very serious about suicide," Mrs. Ng said.

Two decades after the first boatloads of Vietnamese pushed off the shores of their homeland into the treacherous waters of the South China Sea, the final chapter of their exodus is being written in detention camps like the one here along the mountainous western coast of the Philippines.

For many of these Vietnamese, who have spent years in these camps only to face a forced return to Vietnam, the final chapter will in many ways be tragic. The question is whether it will be violent as well.

In February, Southeast Asian governments announced final plans to close the camps that have housed the more than 800,000 Vietnamese who fled their homeland after 1975.

The closings mean that the 46,000 Vietnamese left in the camps today — those who have been unable to find third countries willing to accept them — will soon be compelled to return to Vietnam.

Forcing them home will be an ugly, possibly dangerous business, as tens of thousands of people are pushed or dragged onto planes headed for Vietnam, which many of them had hoped never to see again.

That was clear Thursday, as the Vietnamese migrants here slashed themselves with knives and blades and another tried



Vietnamese refugees, one already injured, threatening to stab themselves Thursday as the police moved in to evict them from a camp in Morong, Philippines.

to set himself on fire as the Philippine government evicted them from their detention camp.

At least three men and an elderly woman were seen bleeding from self-inflicted wounds to their hands or stomachs after they scrambled to the roofs of their wooden barracks and threatened suicide.

With fire trucks spraying them with

water, the Vietnamese were dragged from the rooftops by police officers carrying truncheons and crowbars.

The Vietnamese were being transported by bus and boat to another, larger camp on the southern Philippine island of Palawan, which is expected to be their final stop before they are returned to Vietnam under an agreement between the Philippines and Vietnam.

While the Philippine government did succeed Thursday in uprooting the 272 Vietnamese migrants from the camp, it may face the same sort of violent protest if it moves to the next step — forcing them onto planes or boats bound for their homeland.

The scene at the Morong camp is likely to be repeated across Southeast Asia over the next several months as the gov-

ernments of the region prepare to shut the camps and to force the Vietnamese home. Almost half of the Vietnamese are detained in camps in Hong Kong.

As the clock ticks down, violent outbreaks are becoming common in the detention camps. In Indonesia last June, two Vietnamese refugees set themselves

See DESPERATE, Page 6

Dini Survives Showdown In Italian Parliament

Close Confidence Vote Gives Him More Time; Budget Bill Also Passes

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

ROME — After narrowly surviving a dramatic parliamentary showdown, Prime Minister Lamberto Dini went on Thursday to win approval for the deficit-cutting budget measure on which he had staked his two-month-old government.

With back-to-back victories in Parliament's lower house, first on a 315-to-309 confidence vote and then on the budget bill, Mr. Dini won more time for his non-political government of technicians to finish its limited task of political and fiscal reform, and forestalled a call for early national elections.

June elections have been the rallying cry of his opposition, led by Mr. Dini's mercurial predecessor, Silvio Berlusconi, the media baron who a year ago swept to victory at the polls at the head of a new center-right alliance.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose government fell in December when a key political ally pulled out of his Freedom Alliance coalition, has argued that the Dini government has usurped the popular mandate by refusing to set a date for new elections.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, Mr. Berlusconi accused Mr. Dini of serving as camouflage for last year's political losers and of committing a "crime against the credibility of democratic institutions."

The bitterness of the debate underscored the new uncertainties in Italian politics, which were set off in recent years by a wave of corruption scandals that buried the old ruling parties.

That, combined with reforms that have given the electorate a more direct voice in choosing candidates, has opened the way for new political forces that many hope will eventually coalesce to produce a stable two-party system, similar to those in place elsewhere in Europe.

Mr. Berlusconi's drive for early elections may be related to a referendum, now planned for May, which, if passed, could force him to sell at least two of his three private television stations. The stations helped make him a national figure, and his opponents contend that they give him an unfair advantage with the voters.

In the meantime, a fledgling center-left coalition has been forming, backed by the moderate wing of the former Communist Party and remnants of the defunct Chris-

See ITALY, Page 6

To Lure Clinton to Red Square, Yeltsin Revamps V-E Day Parade

By Bernard Gwertzman
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — In a fresh effort to persuade President Bill Clinton to come to Moscow for the 50th anniversary of the victory in Europe, President Boris N. Yeltsin said Thursday that he would tailor a Red Square military parade on May 9 to avoid embarrassing the American leader.

"He wants to come," Mr. Yeltsin said of Mr. Clinton, but is "a bit concerned about the whole scenario." He said to make it easier for Mr. Clinton, the Red Square

parade would be limited to veterans of the war, and no military equipment would be included.

The Russian leader has been pressing Mr. Clinton to join other Western leaders in Moscow on V-E Day, and then to extend the visit into a summit meeting.

Mr. Clinton, worried about the continuing Russian offensive in Chechnya and a desire to show some concrete results at a summit meeting, has not said yes or no to the invitation.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking to a group of foreign editors, confirmed that the United

States and Russia were drafting an exchange of letters between him and Mr. Clinton over North Atlantic Treaty Organization expansion aimed at meeting some Russian concerns over having NATO moving closer to its borders.

The letters would presumably be made public in connection with a summit meeting. But Mr. Yeltsin, while saying the media had "overdramatized" his concerns, then worked himself into a furor over what he called "forcing the pace of NATO expansion."

"What's happening is that we have just

recently abandoned the bloc divisions," he said. "Now assume that some East European and Central European countries would join NATO and the border would move immediately closer to Russia, so the situation would appear to suggest that we would again have a bloc situation with NATO."

"Is it really consistent with all-European security?" he asked. "No, it is not. The situation will not be calm."

A major problem for Mr. Clinton and a summit meeting in May remains the continuing Russian military action in Chech-

nya. There was no sign, however, that Mr. Yeltsin was at all interested in reaching a political settlement with the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"I am not going to meet with him," Mr. Yeltsin said of Mr. Dudayev. "He is a gangster; he is a bandit. He should be tried for having killed so many of his own people."

Mr. Yeltsin said that Mr. Clinton had passed the word that although he would like to make the trip in May, he did not

See V-E DAY, Page 6

AGENDA

Bosnian Leader Warns on Cease-Fire

BONN (AFP) — President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia warned Thursday that his government would not approve an extension of the cease-fire in his country unless separatist Serbs agreed to an international peace plan partitioning the republic.

"If the Serbs do not accept the plan, we will have no alternative," Mr. Izetbegovic told the foreign affairs committee of Germany's lower house of Parliament. "We will have to fight."

The cease-fire between the Bosnian government and Bosnian Serbian side expires at the end of April.

The president, who is on a two-day visit to Germany, stressed his government's continued support for the peace plan, even if renewed fighting broke out.

The plan, drafted by an international "Contact Group" on Bosnia comprising representatives from Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, has been accepted by all parties except the Bosnian Serbs.

Optimism Page 3, Sports Pages 20, 21, Books Page 9, Crossword Page 21.

PAGE TWO

Psychic Scars in Cambodia

THE AMERICAS Page 3
Courtroom Apologies

ASIA Page 4
Pakistan's Tax Revolt

EUROPE Page 5
Germans Against Turks

INTERNATIONAL Page 6
Rethinking the Iran Embargo

BUSINESS/FINANCE Page 13
Banking Crisis in Mexico

International Classified Page 4.



TEAM EFFORT — Jacques Chirac, right, with Philippe Séguin, a political ally, at a Paris soccer match. Mr. Chirac has outlined his platform. Page 5.

America's UN Role in Doubt As Republicans Weigh Cuts

By Julia Preston
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Republican proposals for sharp reductions in U.S. funding of the United Nations have generated uncertainty here about the future of the traditional U.S. dominance in the world organization.

Many countries express concern about possible American cutbacks because they know that when the largest UN donor gives less, the whole organization does less.

Some fear that an abrupt retreat by Washington would relegate the United Nations once again to the marginal role it played during the Cold War.

At the same time, a number of other powers, particularly Japan and the countries of the European Union, are working hard to expand their influence within the post-Cold War reshuffling at the United Nations.

If the United States substantially re-

duces its financial support, it may have to cede some of its clout as well, officials familiar with the United Nations said.

"Money speaks here in terms of leadership," said James Gustave Speth, the American administrator of the UN Development Program, who in practice is the second most powerful man in the UN system, after Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

"There's no doubt that my ability to give leadership could be adversely affected by a withdrawal of U.S. interest and financial support," Mr. Speth said.

The Republican proposals for funding cuts are just beginning to make their way through the U.S. Congress, but the United Nations appears to be especially vulnerable.

"We have learned the hard way that the UN is simply not able, financially, diplomatically or militarily, to resolve many

See UN, Page 6

No Room at the Top in U.S. For Women and Blacks

By Peter T. Kilborn
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Despite three decades of affirmative action, "glass ceilings" and "concrete walls" still block women and minority groups from the top management ranks of American industry, a bipartisan federal commission said in the government's first comprehensive study of barriers to promotion.

White men, while constituting about 43 percent of the work force, hold about 95 of every 100 senior management positions, defined as vice president and above, the report said.

White women have poured into the work force, taking nearly 40 percent of all jobs nationwide, compared with 30 percent three decades ago. But the report suggested Wednesday that in the race for

top management slots, women stumble or are tripped in the stretch: They typically constitute less than 5 percent of senior managers in industries across the nation.

Women have had greater success moving into the ranks of middle management, like assistant vice presidents and office managers. According to the report and the 1990 census, white women now hold close to 40 percent of those jobs and black women hold about 5 percent. Black men hold 4 percent.

The report by the Glass Ceiling Commission, titled "Good for Business: Making Full Use of the Nation's Human Capital," used 1990 census data and the results of surveys by consulting firms to sketch the corporate landscape for women and minorities, and to identify the barriers to their advancement — principally the fears

See CEILINGS, Page 6

'Jurassic Park' Fantasy a Step Nearer

Reuters

BEIJING — A Chinese scientist said Thursday that the discovery of DNA in a dinosaur egg marked a major step forward for mankind and could add fact to the fictional hit movie "Jurassic Park," in which dinosaurs were brought back to life.

"This is not simply a Chinese discovery," said Zhou Zhenquan, vice president of the Life Sciences Institute at Beijing University. "This will promote the knowledge of all mankind."

A group of young scientists, led by Chen Zhenliang, discovered organic substances containing amino acids in a "cotton-like" part on the inner surface of the egg late last year, Mr. Zhou said.

They were led to the find by chance when a collector of fossilized dinosaur eggs dropped and broke one of his eggs in central Henan Province, according to an official who has followed the discovery.

The egg split open to reveal a softish center and the puzzled collector approached the Henan government. Paleontologists descended on the egg, first dug up in Qixia County, and began their ground-breaking research, the official said.

The State Council, or cabinet, stepped in to order protection for the egg, believed to be 70 million years old and from the Cretaceous period in the Mesozoic era, and its removal to Beijing.

There the scientists set to work on a budget of just 100,000 yuan (\$12,000).

On Jan. 13, the research team found DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, in the egg and succeeded in obtaining a variety of gene fragments, the newspaper Guangming Daily reported.

"Why did dinosaurs control the world and then so suddenly disappear?" Mr. Zhou asked. "This could help to provide the answers."

In the movie "Jurassic Park," dinosaurs were brought back to life by cloning a sample of their DNA.

Mr. Zhou said the find could add fact

See DNA, Page 6

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up 30.78	Down 0.12%
4069.15	112.21
The Dollar	
New York	Thurs close previous close
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U.S. Mtl.	51.10

A Nation Traumatized/Pol Pot's Brutal Legacy

Terror's Psychic Scars Handicap Cambodia

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

PHNOM PENH—What passes for an insane asylum in the desolate Cambodian village of Banteay Dek is one more squalid bit of evidence of this nation's agony. The village clinic has set aside a small wooden shed with a dirt floor and three urine-stained mattresses to house the mentally ill until they get better, or until it is clear that they will never get better.

Saung Bunly had to be chained to his bed for several weeks last year after he kept trying to hurt himself, usually by slamming his head into the wall.

"They took the chains off because I am not violent anymore, but I am still crazy," said the 35-year-old patient, who was perched on the edge of his cot, rocking frantically back and forth, his eyes ablaze.

"And I am crazy because of the Khmer Rouge."

"Sometimes the Khmer Rouge would hurt me, hit me again and again," he recalled in this rare lucid moment. "There was no food, I still have nightmares that Pol Pot will return."

Twenty years ago next month, the black-clad child soldiers of the Khmer Rouge pulled their trademark checked scarves loosely around their necks and marched into Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, and launched a Maoist-inspired peasant revolution that would leave more than one million Cambodians dead, including almost everyone who had talent or training to run this small country.

If the Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot wanted a legacy, he surely has it: A nation still so shattered by his crimes that Cambodia today seems incapable of governing itself, so traumatized that much of the outside world wonders if Cambodia can ever again succeed as a fully independent nation.

"As an Asian and as a humanitarian, I am embarrassed that we have allowed the Cambodian problem to fester," said an Asian diplomat stationed in Phnom Penh. "I think you will hear more and more about the possibility of Cambodia's neighbors stepping in, doing something, if things deteriorate further."

After spending more than \$2 billion on a peacekeeping operation that in 1993 produced the first free elections in Cambodia's history, the United Nations clearly does not have the money or the inclination to return to Cambodia in force.

But a small group of Asian diplomats has quietly proposed the creation of an all-Asian Trusteeship for Cambodia, in which friendly Southeast Asian nations would send advisers

to oversee Cambodia's economic and political development, and possibly even take a role in commanding the country's military, which is still locked in battle with the Khmer Rouge.

After Pol Pot and his forces were overthrown in 1979 in a Vietnamese invasion, they returned to the jungle as insurgents. The Vietnamese would likely be notable by their absence from the Trusteeship, given the fury felt by Cambodians over their country's occupation from 1979 until 1989.

Cambodia is only one entry on the sorry list of nations, including Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia, that seems incapable of holding themselves together peacefully without outside intervention.

But Cambodia has suffered in special ways. No country in the 20th century lost such a sizable proportion of its population in such a short period—depending on the estimate, between one-eighth and one-third of Cambodians vanished—and perhaps no country has so suddenly been stripped of an entire generation of people with education and ability.

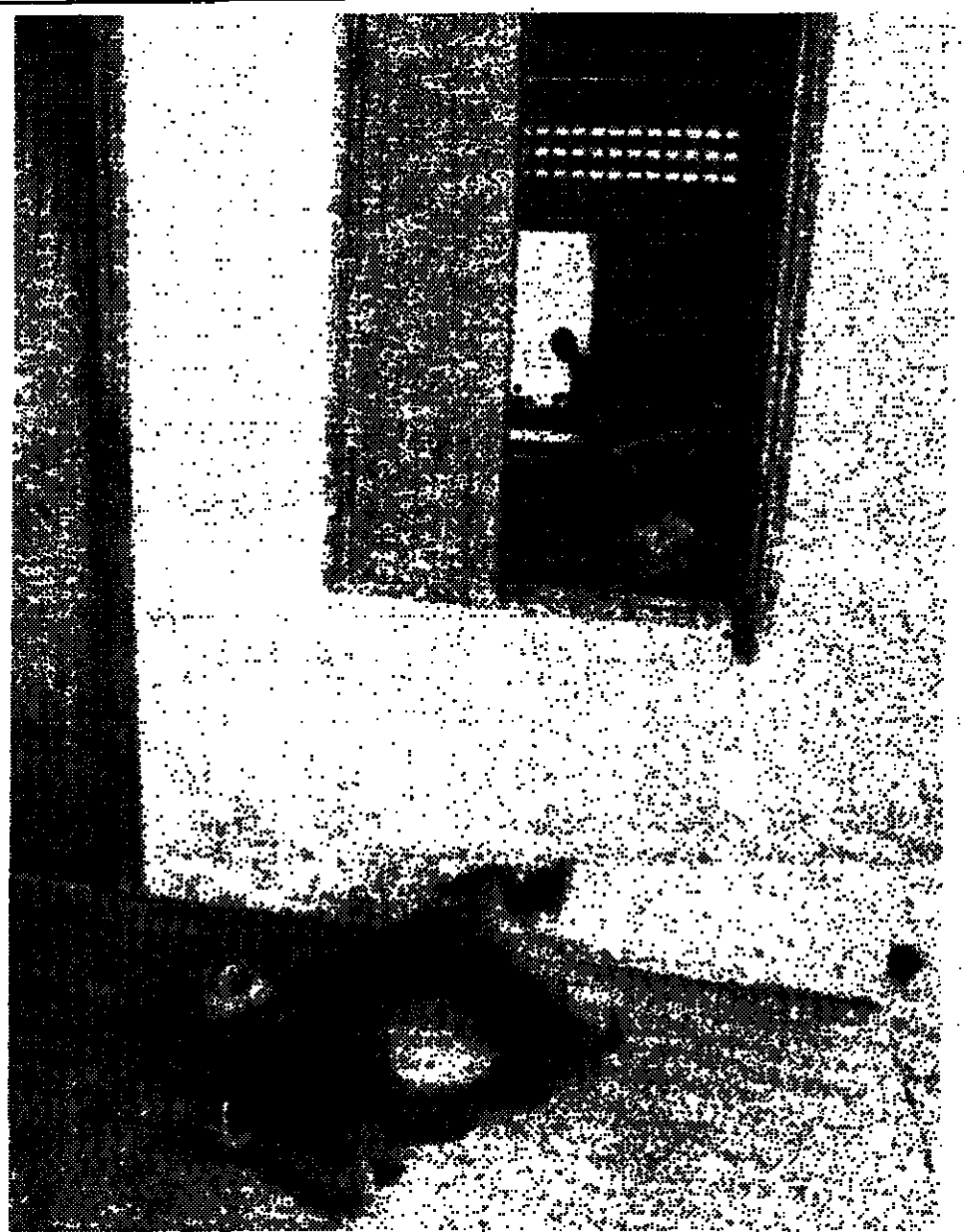
Among the "enemies of the revolution" singled out for liquidation by Pol Pot in the 1970s were educators and bankers, economists and engineers, writers and monks, the very people who might have been able to help rebuild the country after Pol Pot's reign of terror ended.

MANY of the people left to run the government are corrupt and uneducated, their credentials consisting of their willingness to use violence unsparingly. Many of Cambodia's senior leaders are Khmer Rouge defectors who, while they may have renounced the ideology of Pol Pot, still make use of his savage tactics.

There is other evidence of Pol Pot's legacy, especially in the glazed eyes of so many civilians who survived the Khmer Rouge years. Any visitor who spends much time in Cambodia knows that a large portion of the population is psychologically scarred from the Pol Pot era. Mental illness is rampant, and so is the violence that it often produces.

"It's a traumatized country," said Chantal Rodier, a Canadian psychologist who has been working here for two years for Children of Cambodia, a charity group. "Because of the Khmer Rouge, these people became less than animals. They lost the power to conduct their own lives. And it will take a long time to overcome this—several generations."

She said that Cambodian children born long after the Khmer Rouge were overthrown were not spared the trauma of that era, since their parents, whose own childhoods were devastated by the Khmer Rouge, seemed inept at raising the next generation.



Phnom Penh asylum resident, who, like many others, bears scars of Pol Pot years.

"I won't say that Cambodian parents don't love their children, but the children don't receive the affection they need," she said. "The parents have no role models for how to raise their children."

THE mental illness she described is on grim display in the village clinic at Banteay Dek, about 32 kilometers (20 miles) east of Phnom Penh, where attendants trained in traditional Khmer medicine try to deal with mentally ill patients who are often violent. The treatment, such as it is, involves extracts of tree bark and plants and the use of shackles.

The clinic's administrator, Siem Vy, 58, said the troubles of virtually all of her psychi-

atric patients could be traced back to the years of Pol Pot.

"When they come to the hospital they usually cry, the Khmer Rouge killed all my family, and sometimes they will cry like that all night," she said. "One woman knocked the wall with her head. She kept crying, 'Why do you kill my family? Why, why?'"

Mrs. Siem Vy, who has worked in village hospitals for decades, said that mental illness was rare in Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge era.

"We were a peaceful country then," she said. "But after Pol Pot tried to destroy Cambodia, these terrible psychiatric problems are common. And we know that the Khmer Rouge are completely responsible for this."

Unlikely Diplomat Emerges in Africa

Burkina Faso Chief Assailed For Support of Liberia Rebel

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ZINLARE, Burkina Faso—When Charles Taylor, a Liberian faction leader, needs a plane to move around the region, diplomats say, he picks up his satellite telephone and calls Blaise Compaore, the president of this hard-scrabble nation of 9 million. Typically, a plane bearing the country's yellow, green and red colors arrives in short order.

When France decided to expel 20 Algerian Islamic militants in August, Paris first had to find a country that would take them in. The solution involved a call to Captain Compaore, who accepted the request and placed the exiled militants under what amounted to house arrest.

With his country descending into civil war recently over his refusal to allow democratic reforms, the Togolese dictator, Gnassingbe Eyadema, desperately needed someone to help open talks with the opposition. In no time, Captain Compaore was at the center of mediation efforts.

Since coming to power in a coup in 1987, Captain Compaore has turned his landlocked country, one of the world's 10 poorest, into an unlikely diplomatic powerhouse.

Juggling friendships with countries as disparate as France and Libya, and keeping at least one finger in almost every regional crisis, the 44-year-old leader has emerged as perhaps the continent's busiest diplomat since the death of the Ivory Coast's longtime president, Felix Houphouët-Boigny, in 1993, according to students of African politics.

If his energy is admired, however, Captain Compaore's activism is far from universally appreciated. Many African diplomats bitterly describe his support for Mr. Taylor as part of a French-inspired plan to limit Nigerian influence in Liberia.

The result has been to frustrate a Nigerian-led regional peacekeeping operation in the country, while opening channels for French businessmen to Liberia's vast mineral and forest wealth. Diplomats add that it has come at the cost of the violent dismemberment of that country.

Where Mr. Houphouët-Boigny had his residence symbolically protected by a crocodile-filled moat, the expensive grounds of Captain Compaore's new home are guarded by two freely ranging lions.

In an interview at his home, Captain Compaore dodged most questions about his involvement in Liberia's civil war, calling it old history.

"We don't have a border with Liberia," he said when asked if he was arming Mr. Taylor. "It is as if you were asking me whether we were supplying Peru against Ecuador."

Captain Compaore, then the government's second-ranking official, came to power in 1987 after a coup in which the popular president, Captain Thomas Sankara, was killed.

Captain Compaore has denied prior knowledge of the Liberia's vast mineral and forest wealth. Diplomats add that it has come at the cost of the violent dismemberment of that country.

The national carriers of Israel and Jordan have united to offer joint vacations in both countries from the United States. El Al said Thursday. Tourists are to fly into and out of either Jerusalem or Amman and spend several nights in both capitals. (AFP)

An outbreak of meningitis has killed 874 people in the past three months in Niger. The disease has also killed 42 people each in Mali and Burkina Faso in the same period and 29 in the Ivory Coast. (AFP)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strike to Disrupt Air Inter Flights

PARIS (AFP)—Flights by the French domestic carrier Air Inter will be heavily disrupted for three days starting Sunday because of a strike, the company said Thursday.

The company said one in three flights would be grounded Sunday afternoon because of the strike, the second in as many weeks. Air Inter did not say how many flights would be disrupted Monday and Tuesday.

Pilots unions have called the strike, which is to run from midday Sunday through midnight Tuesday. Similar to the earlier strike, it is to protest the proposed cutting of 600 jobs in connection with the merger of Air Inter and Air France services.

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Disney Builds a Mickey-less Resort

New York Times Service

NEW YORK—Walt Disney Co. has announced that it is building its first resort exclusively for adults and families with older children.

When the Disney Institute, as the resort is called, opens next February on the grounds of the Disney World Resort in Florida, such familiar Disney characters as Mickey and Minnie will be conspicuous by their absence. Instead, the 58-acre (23-hectare) site will allow guests to fashion individual vacations from more than 80 programs as diverse as rock climbing to golf to animation workshops.

The Disney Institute, with 457 rooms, will be able to accommodate only about 800 visitors.

Correction

An article about money managers' views of the French presidential candidate Jacques Chirac in Thursday's International Herald Tribune omitted the first name and identification of a stock analyst. He is Chris Golden, head of fixed-income research at Nomura International in London.

Clinton and Major Speaking Again — After the Day of Blarney

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON—Prime Minister John Major and President Bill Clinton have agreed to talk by telephone this weekend, after the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the White House that annoyed the British government, a spokesman for Mr. Major said Thursday.

Mr. Major's government was upset that Mr. Clinton invited Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, to the White House on Friday without getting a pledge that Mr. Adams' allies in the Irish Republican Army were prepared to give up their weapons.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Adams shook hands and spoke together for about five minutes Thursday in Washington when they attended a lunch at the Congress, according to Representative

Peter T. King, a New York Republican. It is the first time that a Sinn Féin leader has shaken the hand of a U.S. president.

Mr. Major's office said Wednesday that he and Mr. Clinton would probably talk on Thursday, and the latest delay apparently did not indicate continuing pique on the British side. The spokesman said the president and the prime minister had had a constructive exchange of messages over the last week.

Mr. Major was not available to take a telephone call from Mr. Clinton on Saturday or again on Monday, and Mr. Major's office did not dispute press reports that this reflected the prime minister's anger about the red-carpet treatment for Mr. Adams.

The IRA began a cease-fire on Sept.

1, but has not given up any guns or explosives. Mr. Adams has resisted British demands for progress on the issue before Sinn Féin joined all-party talks in Northern Ireland.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the senior British official in Northern Ireland, said he was heartened by a statement Wednesday by Richard C. Holbrooke, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, on the need for progress on getting the IRA to "decommission" its weapons. (AP, AFP)

Donations Pour In

Joe Sexton of The New York Times reported:

Mr. Adams' fever had hit 102 (39 centigrade), and a savage cough wracked his body. And so shortly after dawn, he sat slumped in the back seat

of a modest sedan on his way through a faint but gathering light to the Albany County, New York, airport.

At the midpoint of his hectic 10-day fund-raising tour in the Northeastern United States, the transformation from accused terrorist to hand-pumped lobbyist had proved debilitating for the president of the IRA's political arm, Sinn Féin.

However exhausted, Mr. Adams was not looking for sympathy, just audiences—and, for the first time openly, money. Barnstorming with his Belfast accent, he found wallets opening to him as his supporters relished their unprecedented freedom to give legally to Mr. Adams' cause.

Moving out of the bars and basements of Queens and the Bronx, Irish-

Americans walked this week into the ballrooms of Manhattan and the state rooms of Albany to embrace the IRA.

"It's about time after 25 years, and sure, we feel the irony, and it feels good, rewarding," said Sean Enright, an electrical engineer with the Con Edison electric utility, who said he had been giving to Northern Irish causes since 1969.

In an event that would have been not only unthinkable but illegal little more than a year ago, about 300 people gathered Wednesday under the crystal chandeliers of Le Grand Salon ballroom at the Essex House for a \$200-a-plate luncheon for Mr. Adams. Mr. Clinton decided just last week to allow Mr. Adams to raise money in the United States.

Azerbaijan Troops Besiege Rebel Police

Reuters

BAKU, Azerbaijan—Troops laid siege to the stronghold of a rebel elite police unit on Thursday, bringing nearer the climax of a mutiny that has pushed this former Soviet republic to the brink of civil war.

National Security Minister Namig Abbasov said that the government troops would not try to storm the base of the OPON police unit until at least 10 P.M. on Friday, and that

efforts were under way to end the mutiny peacefully.

Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Abbasov said that talks were under way with the rebels, who have called for the resignation of Azerbaijan's president, Heydar A. Aliyev.

Mr. Aliyev, speaking on television Wednesday night after three days of unrest, asserted that Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Javadov was trying to overthrow him by leading a mutiny of the elite police force.

"Azerbaijan is again on the brink of civil war," he said in a televised address to the Transcaucasian country, the third-biggest oil producer among the former Soviet republics.

Mr. Aliyev described the events as an attempted "putsch" and vowed to quell the unrest.

Interior Minister Ramil Usu-

bov ordered the 3,000-member OPON police disbanded Monday after some of its members seized administrative buildings in two towns in the north of Azerbaijan.

Baku was calm Thursday night, but armed forces were guarding Parliament and government buildings, and manning roadblocks.

Additional forces, backed by armored vehicles, surrounded the elite police's base just outside the city.

The president assumed his office in 1993 following a march on the capital by a mutinous military division.

Mr. Aliyev, a former Communist Party leader, said that blood had been shed in disturbances this week, but gave no details.

The local Turan news agency said in an unconfirmed report

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Anguilla (landline phone)	80	Canada Republics	004-002-187	Guinea-Bissau	172-1877	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Anguilla (cell phone)	1-800-366-4663	Denmark	800-1-0877	Haiti	172-1877	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Antigua	8-10-455	Dominican Republic	1-800-751-7877	Honduras	006-55-877	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Armenia	00-1-800-777-1111	Ecuador	171	India	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Australia (landline)	1-800-331-10	Egypt (landline)	254-4777	Indonesia	006-55-877	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Australia (cell phone)	1-800-881-877	France	02-336-4777	Iran	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Austria	022-903-084	Ghana	101	Israel	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Bahamas	1-800-389-2111	Hong Kong	004-890-100-3	Italy	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Bahrain	800-777	Hungary	004-890-100-3	Jamaica	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Barbados	1-800-877-8000	India	004-890-100-3	Japan	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Belgium	0800-10084	Indonesia	004-890-100-3	Kenya	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Belize	1-800-423-0877	Iran	004-890-100-3	Korea	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Bermuda	000-3333	Israel	004-890-100-3	Laos	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Bhutan	000-806	Italy	004-890-100-3	Lebanon	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
British Virgin Islands	1-800-877-8000	Japan	004-890-100-3	Libya	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Bulgaria	00-800-1010	Kenya	004-890-100-3	Macao	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Canada	1-800-877-8000	Korea	004-890-100-3	Madagascar	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Chile	00-0017	Laos	004-890-100-3	Malawi	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
China	108-13	Lebanon	004-890-100-3	Mali	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
Colombia	005-120-010	Libya	004-890-100-3	Malta	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
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		Maldives	004-890-100-3	Taiwan	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677
		Maldives	004-890-100-3	Thailand	0030-12	Maldives	001-999-13-677

THE AMERICAS

EU Resumes Talks With Canada, but Fishing Split Is Deep

BRUSSELS — European Union and Canadian officials, on speaking terms again after Ottawa released a Spanish trawler, held talks Thursday to try to resolve their bitter fisheries dispute, but major problems remained.

The trawler Estai, seized in international waters off Canada a week ago for what Canadian authorities said was overfishing, sailed Wednesday night from St. John's, Newfoundland, after payment of a bond of 500,000 Canadian dollars (\$350,000).

"Finally, after a war of words, we have started talking seriously," a European Commission spokesman said.

The goal of Thursday's bilateral talks was to prepare a multilateral deal at a meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization in Brussels from March 22 to 24.

Discussions covered political and technical issues, notably a Canadian law of March 3 extending jurisdiction beyond the 200-mile (320-kilometer) limit, and tougher control measures.

The EU also opposes a 60-day moratorium on Greenland halibut introduced by Canada on March 6.

"We have some positive elements but not enough to prove the goodwill of the Canadians to reach a fruitful diplomatic solution," the Commission

spokesman said, adding that talks would continue Friday.

Spain said earlier there were still deep differences between the two sides. "The political and judicial problem continues," Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Luis Asteiza told a radio interviewer in Spain. "It is essential that full international legality is restored."

The Commission said payment of the bond by the Spanish shipowner was a private decision and did not mean that the EU had accepted the legality of the Canadian seizure.

The EU had earlier demanded the unconditional release of the vessel, which Canada said was loaded with undersized Greenland halibut, or turbot. It was in international waters off Newfoundland's Grand Banks.

Canada's fisheries minister, Brian Tobin, said in Ottawa that the Estai's nets, recovered from the ocean bed after being cut by the crew before the vessel's seizure, were illegal.

As Spanish fishing vessels remained outside the disputed grounds off Newfoundland, Canada claimed victory in the dispute. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said in Ottawa that Canada had proved it meant business by seizing the vessel.

"The time has come for us to put our foot on the ground and to show we're doing that for conservation and we mean business," Mr. Chrétien said.



Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin jokingly sprinting from reporters in Ottawa.

Helms Sets Foreign Policy Bill In Motion

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Fulfilling a pledge he made a month ago, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, has introduced a bill proposing a top-to-bottom overhaul of the nation's foreign-policy machinery that would merge three independent agencies into the State Department.

The move will start what promises to be a long congressional fight over the structure and mission of all government agencies involved in international affairs, especially the three Mr. Helms seeks to abolish: the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the United States Information Agency.

All AID operations abroad would be scrapped and all development assistance funds would be channeled through nongovernmental voluntary agencies.

Mr. Helms, a North Carolina Republican, has considerable support in the Republican leadership, but his plan is opposed by the Clinton administration. Several members of Congress and administration officials predicted a protracted process that is likely to produce some restructuring but probably not everything Mr. Helms is seeking.

Representative Benjamin A. Gilman, Republican of New York, Mr. Helms's counterpart in the House, appeared with Mr. Helms at a news conference Wednesday and agreed that the time had come to reorganize the foreign-policy agencies. But he did not endorse the Helms plan in detail.

"Let's not mince words," Mr. Helms said. "Our foreign-policy institutions are a complete mess. Over the past four decades, key foreign-policy functions have been spun off into a constellation of money-absorbing, incoherent satellites, each with its own entrenched, growing bureaucratic interests. The result has been an incoherent mishmash, which no one policy-maker can control."

Administration officials argued in interviews and briefings that the three agencies should remain independent because they have special missions that the State Department is ill-equipped to carry out and because the administration already is streamlining them.

Mr. Helms, an outspoken conservative, is a longtime critic of foreign aid and a State Department that he says is insufficiently vigorous in pursuing U.S. economic and strategic interests. But his presentation was largely nonideological, stressing efficiency and flexibility, although he offered no cost-saving projections.

Under his plan, all government foreign policy, aid and arms-control activities would flow through five undersecretaries of state.

For Republicans, a New Revolution in the South

By William Booth
Washington Post Service

ANDERSON, South Carolina — C. D. Chambliss, a farmer and citizen legislator, sits in a lonesome café here, sipping weak coffee and trying to describe how a lifelong Democrat turned good old boy became a Republican at age 66.

In worn cap and muddy boots, Mr. Chambliss may not look like the future, but his story is emblematic of the historic changes in partisan politics that are sweeping the state and the South, a frenzy of party-switching that is redefining the ways citizens see each other and their interests.

South Carolina's new governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general switched parties in the past four years, leading Democrats to complain that Republicans did not build a party, but stole one.

After the November elections, two state senators and three state representatives, including Mr. Chambliss, switched as well. When the dust settled, Republicans held 63 of 124 seats in the South Carolina state House. Democrats hold a narrow majority in the state Senate, but even their leaders do not expect it to last through another election.

As Mr. Chambliss, a direct but canny veteran legislator, put it: "We just don't feel like Democrats in our guts anymore." Such is the case throughout

the South, a once-impenetrable bastion of Democrats transforming into a hotbed of conservative Republican activism.

For the first time since Reconstruction, Republicans in the 11 formerly Confederate states hold the majority of the seats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the governors' mansions.

It is a cultural and political phenomenon driven not only by perceived failures of the Clinton administration but also by the South's booming economy, the explosive growth of its suburbs, lingering racial animosities and, perhaps most important, the power of the Christian right in a deeply religious region.

There might be no place better to understand the Republican

canization of Dixie than South Carolina and the rolling hills of C. D. Chambliss's Anderson County. Here the Republican Party has evolved from a tiny, clubby group of blue bloods into a sprawling movement populated by remnants of the old guard and droves of the newly converted, many working with hit lists, phone trees, fax attacks and states of candidates.

"The Democrats are just tearing up their voting cards down here," said Lesley White, a homemaker and leader of Christian Coalition in Anderson County. "We're getting new converts every day."

After the Civil War, Democrats dominated South Carolina and its neighbors for more than a century. But there were signs of the coming revolution

decades ago. Before suburbs, before the Christian Coalition and rapid-dial fax machines, there was Strom Thurmond.

Mr. Thurmond led a group of segregationist southern Democrats in 1948 to oppose President Harry S. Truman. Mr. Thurmond and the Dixiecrats won South Carolina and three other southern states, showing hostility to a liberal Democratic Party and the federal government was deeply appealing. He became a Republican in 1964.

Chordes Seabrook, an eighth-generation Carolinian, remembers working a polling booth in the 1960s when only one Republican showed up.

"It was like Republicans were from another planet," recalls Mr. Seabrook, a former textile executive. "Nobody had seen one up close, except for

Strom. They used to whisper to each other, 'There goes a Republican.' They thought we had tails."

South Carolina, deep-fried and Deep South, where one in seven residents lives in a mobile home, is a small, "no-frills" state. The label "liberal" spells political death in most districts and almost 56 percent of those asked by pollsters recently described themselves as either born-again or evangelical Christians.

The state boasts a booming manufacturing corridor between Greenville and Spartanburg, new home to BMW, Fuji, BASF and Hoffman-La Roche. It booms because of South Carolina's lower wages, motivated nonunion workers and aggressively pro-business attitude. With new jobs came an explosion of suburbs filled with well-paid, blue-collar workers and managers and their young families.

With the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan, Mr. Seabrook said, these new suburbanites, many transplanted northerners, became active in the Republican Party. But the real driving force behind the modern Republican Party in South Carolina was Carroll A. Campbell Jr., the former two-term governor.

A farmer and real estate developer, Mr. Campbell built a state party that brought together fiscal and religious conservatives and provided a rank and file who licked stamps, donated money and pushed new Republicans to run for local offices.

Away From Politics

• Prices of the 20 top-selling drugs rose 3.6 percent in the last year as pharmaceutical companies stepped up increases on popular medications to maximize profits, Families USA, a consumer group, reported. It said a 3 percent rise for all drugs had nearly kept an industry pledge of increases at or below that of the Consumer Price Index. (NITT)

• The space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts trained ultraviolet telescopes on the moon and a quasar Thursday in a final round of studies before their scheduled landing Friday after a record 154-day flight. (AP)

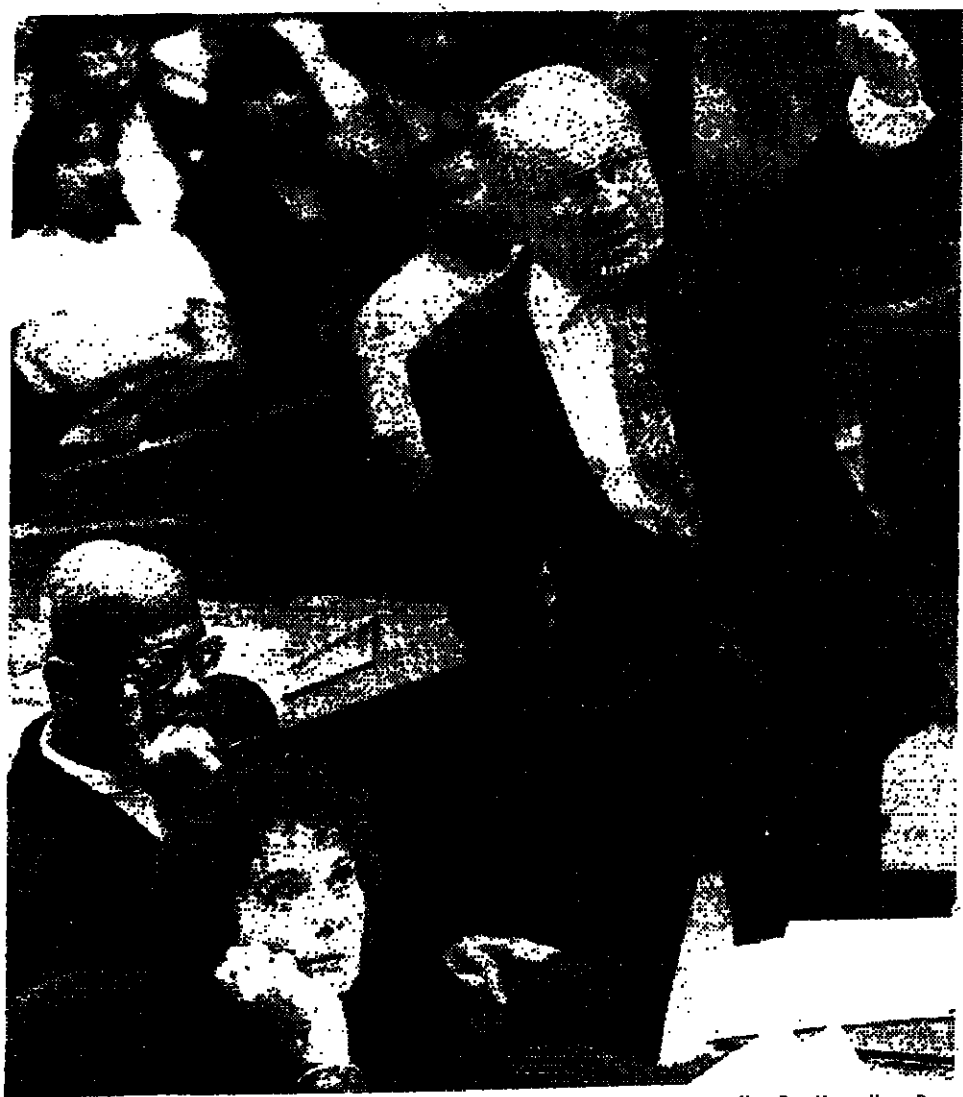
• The winter's average temperature of 36.03

degrees Fahrenheit (2.24 centigrade) was higher than normal, the National Climatic Data Center said, tying that of 1953-54. Only 1991-92 was warmer, at 36.60 degrees. (AP)

• Researchers have identified a link between cigarette smoking and the most common form of cancer-causing genetic mutation, according to a report in the New England Journal of Medicine. They found that smokers were much more likely to suffer damage to the p53 gene, a key to cancer protection. (AFP)

• The man who was Ronald Reagan's minister for decades, the Reverend Don Moorman, resigned in 1993 as pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles because of "sexual contact" with five women, the church has now disclosed. (AP)

Simpson Prosecutor and Defense Apologize for 'Vitriol' Level



Mr. Bailey making a point as prosecutors Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden listen.

LOS ANGELES — At the judge's urging, the lead prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, Marcia Clark, and a defense attorney, F. Lee Bailey, apologized Thursday for a burst of temper over whether the defense attorney lied about talking to a potential witness.

Judge Lance A. Ito told Ms. Clark and Mr. Bailey that they had gone "beyond the bounds of professional conduct" on Wednesday. "It would thrill me to death if counsel would apologize to each other for the rather high level of vitriol," Judge Ito said before the jury was brought in.

"And I do," Ms. Clark responded, drawing laughter. "I'm sorry, your honor, I'm not going to be facetious."

She said: "I don't like to engage in that sort of exchange. I think it's unseemly. I think it's bad for the entire profession. I do extend to Mr. Bailey my apology for the extreme nature of the exchange yesterday."

Mr. Bailey then apologized to Ms. Clark for saying her eyesight and memory were deficient. "Very plainly, that was unfair, since her eyesight is excellent and her memory has proven to be the same," he said.

He saved his kindest words for Judge Ito. He told him he was sorry for causing the judge any criticism for the outburst, in which Ms. Clark



Judge Lance Ito asked the lawyers to apologize.

called Mr. Bailey a liar and Mr. Bailey called Ms. Clark shrill.

Ms. Clark and Mr. Bailey spoke on the telephone with a potential defense witness, Max Cordoba, a black former Marine sergeant who has accused Detective Mark Fuhrman of using a racial slur.

Mr. Bailey told Judge Ito on Tuesday he had spoken to Mr. Cordoba. "Marine to Marine," but Mr. Cordoba denied in a television interview that he ever talked with Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey insisted in court Wednesday that they had spoken, and Mr. Cordoba changed his story that night, saying he had forgotten the brief conversation.

"Mr. Bailey has made a deliberate misrepresentation to the court," Ms. Clark said Wednesday. "He has lied to the court."

That provoked a furious response by a red-faced Mr. Bailey, who said the discrepancy was a misunderstanding. Mr. Bailey said Wednesday it was actually his investigator, Patrick McKenna, who interviewed Mr. Cordoba. At one point, Mr. Bailey said, Mr. McKenna handed him the phone and let him say a few words.

When the apologizing was finished on Thursday, Mr. Fuhrman returned to the stand and the defense attorney quickly concluded his cross-examination.

POLITICAL NOTES

Senate Democrats Set to Block Bills

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are prepared to block "right wing" legislation much as they stopped the balanced budget amendment and protected a new striker replacement policy, the minority leader, Thomas A. Daschle, said Thursday.

"If they want to pursue this agenda that is dictated in large measure by right-wing extremists in the Republican caucus, especially on the House side, we're going to have to confront them," the South Dakota Democrat said. "We're prepared to do so, and I think we've been able to demonstrate fairly effective cohesion in our caucus when those occasions occur."

That cohesion produced the second major defeat this month for Senate Republicans. On March 2 it was the balanced budget amendment. This time it was protection for striking workers.

Faced with an unbeatable Democratic filibuster, the majority leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, abandoned an effort to block President Bill Clinton's order barring federal contracts to businesses that permanently replace striking workers. (AP)

House Republicans Prepare Cuts

WASHINGTON — House Republicans have cleared the way for passage of a \$17.1 billion spending cut package, after making concessions to abortion-rights advocates, fiscally conservative Democrats and veterans groups.

The concessions, intended to shore up sagging support for the legislation as it went to the floor, were a sobering warning to budget-cutters of the difficulties ahead for much more ambitious Republican proposals to cut government spending. In the next two months, Republican leaders will have to specify as much as \$1.2 trillion in cuts from future budgets to achieve their pledge of a balanced budget by the year 2002 and offset the effect of a new round of tax cuts.

In the most drastic about-face, Republicans scrambled to restore \$206 million for medical equipment for veterans. Representative Jerry Lewis cited that cut last month as an example of Republican willingness to stand up to powerful interest groups. But the California Republican now has backed an amendment to restore the full amount deleted, while cutting a like sum from the president's national service corps so as not to enlarge this year's budget deficit. (WP)

House Weakens Environment Laws

WASHINGTON — The House has moved to weaken some of the landmark environmental legislation of the past quarter-century, including laws affecting clear air, endangered species and forest protection.

House action on the environmental provisions of the bill rescinding \$17.1 billion in federal spending foreshadowed upcoming debates on revamping some of those laws. It sent an unmistakable signal that the environmental community will be hard-pressed to prevent sweeping changes.

The legislation would mandate a large timber salvage program on federal lands that conservationists fear will harm streams and wildlife in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest; halt key vehicle-emission control programs under the Clean Air Act, gut funding for endangered species listing and protection programs and change 1992 legislation that ensures wildlife and urban areas a greater share of California water historically monopolized by big agriculture. (WP)

Quote / Unquote

Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, announcing that he would introduce legislation this year that would bar the federal government from granting preferential treatment to what he called favored groups: "After nearly 30 years of government-sanctioned quotas, timetables, set-asides, and other racial preferences, the American people sense all too clearly that the race-counting game has gone too far." (NITT)

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ASIA

Karachi Strife Prompts Businesses to Threaten Tax Strike

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is under growing pressure to halt violence in Karachi, where stocks plummeted Thursday after business people threatened to stop paying taxes in protest.

The United States, alarmed by the killing of two U.S. Consulate officials on March 8, has ordered American officials in Karachi to send their school-age children home and authorized the departure of other family members wishing to leave.

"While there are currently no credible reports of any specific threat against Americans in Karachi, such threats cannot be ruled out," the State Department said.

Pakistani officials, meanwhile,

warned Thursday that bringing peace to Karachi could mean the "suspension of some rights."

"The situation is not normal and we may have to take abnormal measures," an official said.

Another senior official said the imposition of a state of emergency and a curfew could not be ruled out.

"For now, the freedom of the people is curtailed by terrorists anyway," the official said. "The government has the right and responsibility to act as it deems necessary to restore law and order."

The United Nations, International Monetary Fund and World Bank have told visiting missions to stay away from the city, where more than 100 people have been killed this month.

"We are not ringing panic bells," a UN official said.

But he added, however, that international staff based in Karachi had been advised to vary travel routes and use extreme caution.

It is not clear whether the March 8 ambush was a one-time attack on Americans, perhaps in revenge for last month's extradition from Pakistan of a suspect in the World Trade Center bombing, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, or the start of a campaign targeting all foreigners.

But Western countries have taken a cautious approach. A British investment mission representing 50 companies due in Pakistan next Friday is virtually sure to scrap its trip to Karachi, but will visit Islamabad and Lahore, diplomats said.

Finance Minister Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark has dropped plans to bring a business delegation to Pakistan on March 31, postponing his visit until later this year.

Gordon Wu, a Hong Kong-based tycoon, put off this month's scheduled talks with Pakistani authorities on an \$8 billion power plant project and has not set a new date.

To reinforce these storm warnings, the Karachi Stock Exchange index, a barometer of business confidence, tumbled to a 16-month low Thursday.

At a meeting Wednesday night chaired by the president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 300 traders and business people threatened to withhold taxes or utility payments if there

was no visible improvement in the security situation in the coming month.

They also said they would withdraw private-sector advertising from the state-owned electronic media, which provides a large chunk of government revenue.

"There's no way business can be conducted as usual in Karachi at the moment," a London-based fund manager said. "Most people investing in Pakistan over the past year are losing their money. Bhutto has to take this seriously."

Domestic criticism focuses on allegations that the government took steps only when foreign diplomats were killed, largely ignoring Karachi's endemic violence beforehand, a charge denied by the government.

(Reuters, AFP)

Ex-Bank of Japan Governor Defends Role in Bailout Plan

Reuters

TOKYO — A former governor of the Japanese central bank on Thursday denied coming under political pressure to launch a bailout plan that lies at the heart of a budding financial scandal.

The ex-governor, Yasushi Mieno, was testifying before a parliamentary inquiry into allegations of political intrigue and influence-peddling concerning the rescue led by the Bank of Japan of two troubled credit unions.

The credit union affair has become a major headache for the government, in particular for Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, whose ministry backed the plan to prevent the credit firms from collapsing due to bad loans.

Asked whether the proposal was forced on him by Mr. Takemura and a former prime minister, Noboru Takeshita, Mr. Mieno replied: "There were no such demands." He also denied the suggestion that he had had secret meetings with the two over the affair.

Mr. Mieno's appearance in Parliament was meant to help clarify how the main players in the scheme — the central bank, the Finance Ministry and the Tokyo city authorities — arrived at their decision last year to set up the bailout.

Mr. Mieno, whose term as bank governor expired late last year, defended the plan, saying it was necessary to protect public confidence in the country's financial system.

The former governor also de-

nied that his son, a senior official at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, had anything to do with the plan. The Long-Term Credit Bank was the main bank to the two credit firms.

Since the bailout plan was announced, Tokyo city authorities have said the former heads of the unions had poured credit into firms run by themselves and politicians, resulting in 110 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) of bad loans.

Amid growing disquiet about the way the firms were managed, the Tokyo city assembly froze its contribution of 30 billion yen toward setting up a special rescue bank to write off the firms' debts. The Bank of Japan is to provide 60 billion yen and commercial banks 70 billion yen to the bailout.

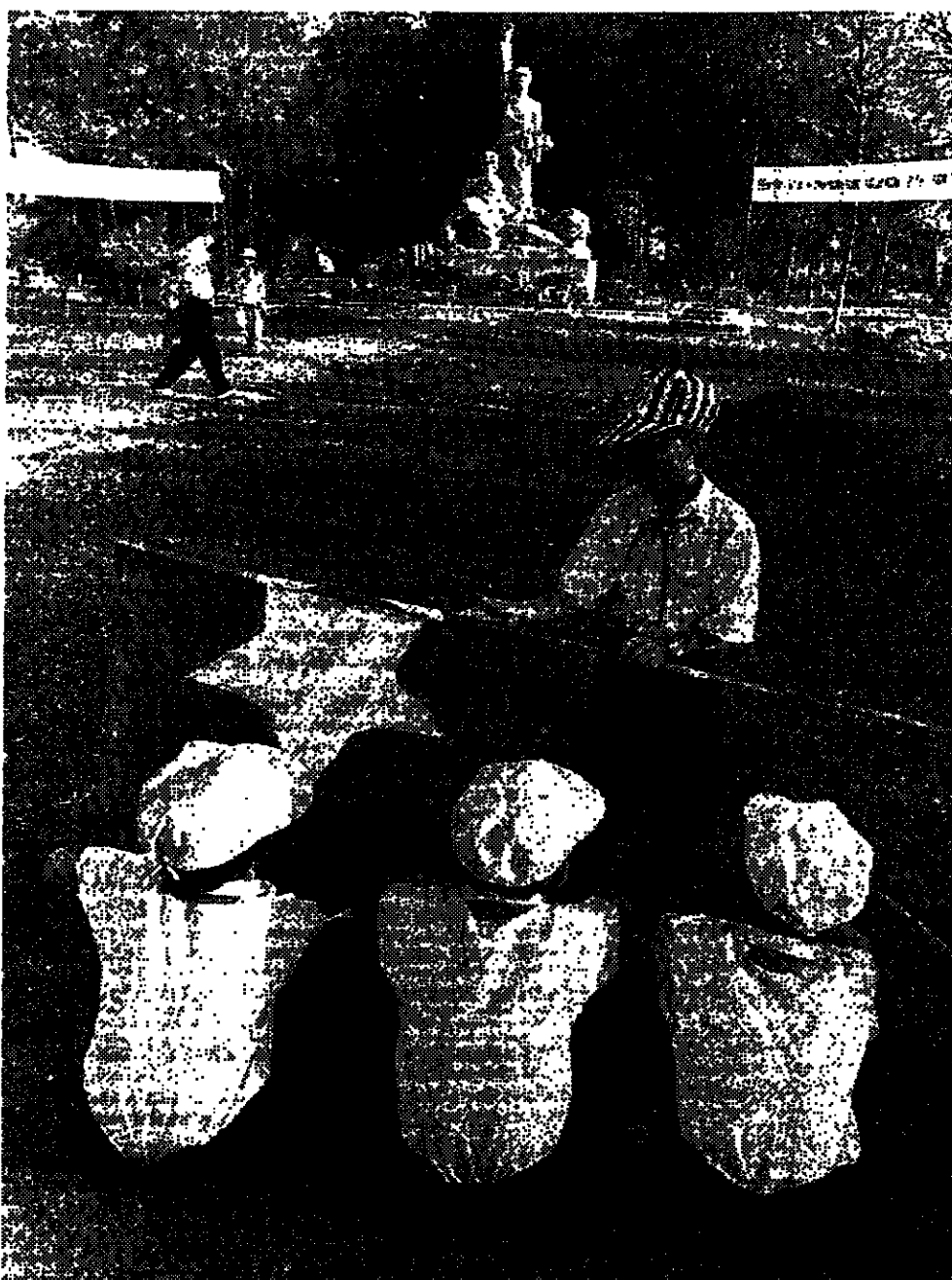
The opposition New Frontier Party has vowed to press for Mr. Takemura's resignation if the plan falls through.

In a closed-door session on Thursday, the Finance Ministry and the Tokyo city authorities gave lawmakers a list of depositors of the credit firms.

The authorities have been accused of trying to protect big depositors at the expense of taxpayers and bank funds.

Last week, Harunori Takahashi, former head of the Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association, and Shinsuke Suzuki, former president of the second troubled credit union, Anzen Credit Bank, told Parliament they did not seek the bailout plan.

The scandal focuses on claims that Mr. Takahashi and Mr. Suzuki had questionable close ties with politicians and bureaucrats, and that string-pulling may have played a part in the decision to set up the rescue bank.



REMEMBERING MY LAI — A Vietnamese schoolboy rolling up a flag Thursday following a ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the My Lai massacre. In which Vietnamese authorities say more than 500 villagers were killed by American soldiers.

Nuclear Waste Ship Is Said To Take Treacherous Route

Agence France-Press

TOKYO — A cargo ship carrying reprocessed nuclear waste from France to Japan is now almost certain to round Cape Horn, the environmental group Greenpeace said Thursday, calling the route one of the most dangerous in the world.

Greenpeace, which is tracking the shipment from its vessel Solo off the coast of Argentina, said the route around the Cape was dangerous due to icebergs and bad weather.

The Solo has been following the cargo ship, the Pacific Pinta, since it left the French port of Cherbourg on Feb. 23. Solo reported that the vessel

was located about 430 miles (680 kilometers) off Mar del Plata of Argentina.

Summer weather at Cape Horn, at the tip of South America, is said to be unstable and navigation is difficult due to icebergs from the South Pole.

But the route around Cape Horn has the advantage of avoiding the territorial waters of Pacific Rim countries, many of which are opposed to the nuclear waste shipment.

Greenpeace said that South Africa had told Britain, France and Japan not to let the Pacific Pinta enter its economic waters.

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TODAY'S HOLIDAYS & TRAVEL SECTION

Appears on Page 11

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BANK INTRODUCTIONS

Last Plea Is Unlikely To Save Filipino Maid

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SINGAPORE — Lawyers for a Philippine maid convicted of two murders made a last-minute appeal Thursday to delay her execution, but said there was little chance now to save her.

The maid, Flor Contemplacion, 42, is scheduled to hang at dawn on Friday. She met with her four children at Changi Prison on Thursday, and they later flew back to Manila.

Mrs. Contemplacion was convicted of murdering another maid, Della Maga, and the woman's 4-year-old ward in May 1991. The death penalty is mandatory for murder in Singapore.

Another maid came forward recently with a version of events that would have exonerated Mrs. Contemplacion.

On Wednesday, Singapore rejected an appeal by President

Fidel V. Ramos of the Philippines

to delay the execution and reopen the case on the basis of the maid's further information.

The Singapore government said it had "carefully investigated" this "new evidence" and found it to be untrue.

The Singapore statement also said that Mrs. Contemplacion had confessed to both murders and that at "no time had she ever suggested that someone else could have been involved or that she had been framed."

About 2,000 people rallied in front of the Singapore Embassy in Manila on Thursday to protest the case.

In a last-ditch attempt, Ramanathan Palakrishnan, the lawyer, sent a letter asking President Ong Teng Cheong of Singapore to postpone the execution.

But there was no reply from the president, Mr. Palakrishnan said.

(AP, Reuters)

Nobel Nominee Is a 'Criminal,' Beijing Asserts

Reuters

BEIJING — China's best-known dissident, Wei Jingsheng, is a criminal and unjustified for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, a government spokesman said Thursday.

The spokesman said, however, that he had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Mr. Wei, one of China's most outspoken proponents of democracy. Mr. Wei served 14 years in prison for his views, then disappeared six months after his release last year.

"Wei Jingsheng is a criminal. He is not qualified to receive the so-called Nobel Peace Prize," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said at a regular weekly briefing.

A group of Danish members of Parliament nominated Mr. Wei in January for the prize.

"It appears to be Kim's effort to cement his grip on the powerful military," a Naewoe analyst said.

The meeting in Pyongyang introduced four new members of the Central Military Commission, including two deputy

marshals and two generals, the agency said.

The military commission is the North Korean military's top decision-making body. Its chairmanship has been vacant since the death of the state founder, Kim Il Sung.

The four new commission members are Deputy Marshals Kim Kwang Jin and Kim Pong Ryn, and Kim Myong Guk and Pak Ki So, who became generals last year, Naewoe said.

Mr. Kim, 53, has shown the importance he attaches to the military by the frequent trips he has made to army units since his father's death.

South Korean analysts have predicted that the rise of a new untied generation would be inevitable if Mr. Kim is to control the 1.1 million-member armed forces.

Many experts here believe that Mr. Kim has yet to secure full control of the armed forces.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Afghan Leader Declines to Resign

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — President Burhanuddin Rabbani said Thursday that he would not be bowed by a United Nations peace plan that calls for him to step down on Tuesday.

"We support the UN peace formula," Mr. Rabbani said. But he added that he was "waiting for a reliable mechanism" before transferring power.

The United Nations says Mr. Rabbani should resign Tuesday in favor of a multiparty governing council open to all 10 Islamic factions involved in Afghanistan's civil war. The plan is widely considered the best hope for ending a war that has devastated Kabul and left the country without a functioning government.

Mr. Rabbani's forces have waged a successful offensive this month and now control all of Kabul for the first time since he came to power in December 1992. With his position strengthened, Mr. Rabbani appears likely to cling to power as long as possible. His government has repeatedly come up with last-minute objections to UN peace proposals, and on Thursday he declined to fix a date for his resignation.

The main threat to Mr. Rabbani's forces is the Taliban militia, made up of former Islamic theology students. But it has been pushed back from the southern and western fringes of the capital in heavy fighting over the past week.

"The Taliban started with good intentions," Mr. Rabbani said of the militia, which had shown some willingness to negotiate with the government. "But unfortunately they have changed their aims and are now fighting against us." (AP)

Exiles Fault Burma 'Propaganda'

BANGKOK — Burma's release of two high-profile political prisoners was a gesture designed to counter bad publicity from its military crackdown on ethnic minorities, Burmese exiles said Thursday.

State-run television showed U Tin Oo and U Kyi Maung walking out of a Rangoon prison on Wednesday. Twenty-nine lesser-known political prisoners also were freed. But the exiles said their release only highlighted the continuing house arrest of the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"If they are sincere, they should release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all the other political prisoners as well," a spokesman for an exile group said in Bangkok. "In our view this is just propaganda to improve their tarnished image abroad."

Australia, the European Union and the United States have criticized Burma this year for fighting, rather than seeking reconciliation with, the Karen National Union, one of the rebel armies still struggling for autonomy from Rangoon.

(Reuters)

Taipei Wants Improved China Ties

TAIPEI — President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan next month will announce a new policy toward China to hasten a rapprochement, the China Times newspaper said Thursday.

Mr. Lee will call for further economic, cultural and agricultural exchanges between the two nations, which have been rivals since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

The new policy will be announced April 8 at a session of Taiwan's National Unification Council, the paper said.

(AFP)

U.S. and Seoul to Discuss Options

SEOUL — U.S. and South Korean officials will discuss possible UN Security Council action against North Korea if Pyongyang refuses to comply with its nuclear accord with Washington, the Yonhap press agency said Thursday.

The agency, citing government officials, said the issue would be part of U.S.-South Korea talks in Washington next week to discuss strategy in advance of the resumption of U.S.-North Korea nuclear talks in Berlin.

North Korea has delayed implementation of an accord reached last year with Washington by refusing to accept South Korean nuclear reactors to replace its current facilities, which are suspected of having been used in the development of nuclear weapons.

(AFP)

Opium Dealer Claims a Victory

SHAN STATE, Burma — Guerrillas forces loyal to a Burmese opium trafficker, Khun Sa, have surrounded about 600 government soldiers who launched an attack on a rebel base, the guerrillas said Thursday.

Khun Sa's fighters attacked Burmese Army reinforcements and the troops they were attempting to relieve, the guerrillas said. "They are trapped and we can wipe them out in two or three days," said a rebel officer at an outpost in southern Shan State, near the border with Thailand.

Heavy fighting broke out Wednesday and continued throughout the day as the guerrillas attacked the government troops and managed to cut them off in a valley overlooked by rebel strongholds, the guerrillas said. There were no immediate reports from the government side.

(Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Samue Takachi, 34, a Japanese legislator from the opposition New Frontier Party, saying she sees no reason why she should apologize for atrocities Japan committed in World War II: "I don't repent because at least I myself belong to the generation which was not involved in the war. I don't think there is any reason why I should be asked to repent." (Reuters)

Permadi, an Indonesian fortune-teller who has been under interrogation by the authorities over his forecasts on likely successors to President Suharto: "It is a naive joke. It is a sign of an unhealthy situation in this country if such a prediction is considered disturbing national stability." (AP)

Mahathir bin Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, calling for mutual respect between Asian and Western nations: "We in Asia have learned a great deal from the West. We will be unnecessarily constraining our full potential if this process were now to be stopped. I believe that Europe, too, may find some value in this message of enriching each other, of mutual enrichment, of rejuvenation and of self-discovery." (Reuters)

Hun Sen, one of Cambodia's two prime ministers, saying the government had crushed the Khmer Rouge: "The political situation has changed categorically. The Khmer Rouge no longer constitute a political and military organization. They have become an armed group, rebels." (AP)

North Korean Leader Moves To Tighten Grip on Military

Agence France-Press

SEOUL — North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Il, has promoted a "new generation" of elite officers into the nation's highest military body, South Korean monitors said here Thursday.

The rise of younger comrades-in-arms mentored by Mr. Kim became known when their names were called during a meeting of army commanders and instructors in Pyongyang, said South Korea's official monitoring agency, Naewoe Press.

"It appears to be Kim's effort to cement his grip on the powerful military," a Naewoe analyst said.

The meeting in Pyongyang introduced four new members of the Central Military Commission, including two deputy

marshals and two generals, the agency said.

The military commission is the North Korean military's top decision-making body. Its chairmanship has been vacant since the death of the state founder, Kim Il Sung.

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South Korean analysts have predicted that the rise of a new untied generation would be inevitable if Mr. Kim is to control the 1.1 million-member armed forces.

EUROPE

Chirac Updates Gaullism in Foreign Policy Plan

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Laying out the guidelines of the foreign policy that France would have if he were elected president, Jacques Chirac put forward a modernized Gaullist concept Thursday that emphasizes the nation's military clout, partly by the resumption of nuclear testing, and seeks a revamped European Union that would strengthen France's international voice.

In a 90-minute speech, Mr. Chirac stressed the continuity of France's key relationships with Germany and the United States along with his commitment to European unity. But he introduced changes, including closer alignment with Britain on Europe's future.

Nothing in his views is likely to raise hackles in Washington. His stance on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, essentially a pledge of greater French cooperation on condition that U.S. authority is reduced in the alliance, has been under discussion for months with the Clinton administration.

On nuclear testing, Mr. Chirac was careful to say that "if a few more tests were necessary, they would be announced along with a commitment to a definite, complete end to testing." French weapons specialists say that the nuclear program cannot rely entirely on laboratory simulation, even with U.S. help, until several new explosions have been conducted in the Pacific.

The significance of Mr. Chirac's speech was chiefly in its ability to reconcile the Gaullist and centrist wings of his electoral coalition. It was a reminder that the next president can change the diplomatic line set by the Socialist president, François Mitterrand, who has been in office since 1981.

Currently the front-runner to succeed him, Mr. Chirac sought to sound conciliatory by stressing his commitment to European cooperation and only hinting at a few controversial thoughts about exactly how to carry out these policies.

Implicitly, Mr. Chirac wanted to remind voters that he has incomparably greater international experience

than either of his campaign rivals, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who is from his own party, and Lionel Jospin, of Mr. Mitterrand's Socialist Party.

Mr. Chirac's trickiest challenge was future European unity. He has often wavered on the issue, which divides his hard-core Gaullist supporters and his newly arrived backers from the ranks of pro-European center-right politicians.

Mr. Chirac emphasized his commitment to European integration, including an eventual move to a single currency, as stipulated in the Treaty on European Union. Easing away from his earlier suggestion that France should hold a referendum on monetary union, Mr. Chirac said that he hoped for a searching national discussion that could create a fresh consensus.

But his call for rapid EU growth eastward implies a looser union, with more real authority in the hands of France, Germany and Britain. This unspoken assumption emerged in Mr. Chirac's proposals aimed at enhancing the member governments' role at

the expense of the European Commission, the executive agency.

In this sense, Mr. Chirac rejected German views about European integration expressed in a paper last year by the governing Christian Democratic Union. Mr. Chirac played down the European Parliament, a cornerstone of German hopes for a supranational Europe.

Mr. Chirac apparently hopes that he can induce Chancellor Helmut Kohl to move toward this looser approach, which is shared by Britain.

Mr. Chirac also called for the creation of an "EU president," to serve on a rotating basis and represent European views internationally. In practice, that post would further undercut the stature of the president of the European Commission, and would probably go first to a French statesman, perhaps even former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who has rallied to the Chirac candidacy.

As a gesture to Bonn, Mr. Chirac said that he supported the idea of a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for Germany.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Global Warming at Issue

BONN — The German environment minister, Angela Merkel, singled out the United States, Canada and Australia on Thursday as key states poised to block progress at a conference on global warming that is to begin later this month in Berlin.

Among developed nations, only European Union members are ready to make commitments to keep carbon dioxide emissions low beyond the year 2000, she said in a report to Parliament on the conference, which is to be held from March 28 to April 7.

"The international community, including many of our friends, is not prepared to hold conclusive discussions in Berlin," she said. "I was in the United States. I have spoken with Canadian, Australian and other industrialized nations' representatives. They all say O.K., now we will discuss the protocol, we will make a declaration in 1997, but we cannot do it now." (Reuters)

Deputies Take On Fraud

STRASBOURG — The European Parliament has thrown its support behind the European Commission's drive to combat fraud against the EU budget, calling in one instance for even tougher action than the commission proposed.

The Parliament endorsed a draft regulation late Wednesday to harmonize and toughen penalties for budget fraud. But a separate recommendation that such fraud should be made a criminal offense in all countries was deemed too weak by the Parliament, which said criminalization should be compulsory.

Unofficial estimates of the amount of fraud against the annual 80 billion Ecu (\$105 billion) budget range from 1 percent to about 10 percent — mostly involving agriculture, which accounts for nearly half the budget. On Monday, EU finance ministers are due to discuss the Commission's proposals, which include setting up a telephone hot line for informers, creating a fraud blacklist and requiring EU governments to do more to address the problem. (Reuters)

Eastern Pact Is Delayed

BUDAPEST — Hungary and Romania said on Thursday they would miss a March 21 European Union deadline to complete a treaty setting longstanding ethnic disputes.

The pact would require Romania to guarantee

the rights of its ethnic Hungarian minority and Hungary to recognize existing borders. But the foreign ministers of the two countries said it would not be finalized in time for an EU conference in Paris next week.

Conclusion of the accord is a condition of the bloc's Stability Pact to assist East European countries and of EU membership for Romania and Hungary. The Romanian foreign minister, Teodor Melescanu, and his Hungarian counterpart, László Kovács said talks would continue over the treaty "as soon as possible." (Reuters)

European Union events scheduled for Friday:

Calendar

PARIS: Meeting between European Union ministers and representatives of the Rio Group to discuss ways to strengthen political and economic dialogue between the EU and Latin America.

BRUSSELS: Wolfgang Roth, vice president of the European Investment Bank, meets with Hans van den Broek, EU commissioner for relations with Eastern and Central Europe.

PARIS: Yves Thibault de Silguy, EU commissioner for economic and monetary union, addresses the French Sugar Federation's general assembly.

LUXEMBOURG: Meeting of the Benelux interparliamentary consultative council.

ROME: Mario Monti, commissioner for the internal market and financial services, meets with Susanna Agnelli, Italian minister of foreign affairs.

VIENNA: Anita Gradin, commissioner for immigration and judicial affairs, meets with Nikolaus Michalek, Austrian minister of justice, and Franz Löschnak, Austrian minister of the interior.

STRASBOURG: Members of Parliament vote on recommendations for a common stability pact as well as on several financial matters.

BRUSSELS: Hans van den Broek, commissioner for relations with Eastern and Central Europe, meets with Maarten Brands, member of the Dutch scientific council for government policy.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP.

Court Rejects Freedom For Former Claes Aide

BRUSSELS — A Belgian appeals court ruled on Thursday that a former aide of Willy Claes, the NATO secretary-general, should stay in prison for further questioning in connection with a defense contract scandal.

A spokesman for the court in the eastern city of Liège said an appeal by Johan Delanghe to be released from prison had been rejected. His detention will be

reconsidered in two weeks' time.

Mr. Delanghe, who was Mr. Claes's top aide when he was economics minister in 1988, was arrested last month for questioning in connection with allegations that an Italian company, Agusta, paid kickbacks to Socialist politicians in Belgium to secure a helicopter contract.

Mr. Delanghe has denied accepting payments from Agusta.



Herbert Propper/The Associated Press

A man inspecting a Turkish club in Asslar, 80 kilometers northeast of Frankfurt, that was firebombed Thursday. Turkish businesses were attacked in six other German cities.

Anti-Turk Violence Sharpens German Debate on Kurds' Fate

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — Following a third straight night of fire-bombs against Turkish cultural centers and other targets in Germany, the authorities braced Thursday for a political battle over a government plan to resume deportations of Kurdish refugees to Turkey.

The attacks in at least seven German cities late Wednesday night caused property damage but no reported injuries. Targets were similar to those struck earlier in the week, including Turkish businesses, a mosque and a social club. Turkish travel agencies were hit in the West German cities of Kassel, Dortmund and Saarbrücken, according to the police.

The German authorities have

blamed Kurdish extremists for such attacks, which have occurred in waves across Germany for the past three years. Kurdish nationalists periodically have used this country as a battleground in fighting the Turkish government, which for more than a decade has waged war in the southeast against Kurd separatism.

About 2 million Kurds, including 450,000 Kurds, live in Germany, making them the country's largest minority.

Two years ago, the German authorities tried to stem the rising tide of violence against Turkish targets across Europe by banning the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party and arresting a number of sympathizers.

Two weeks ago, federal officials outlawed six more groups said to have Workers' Party links, and on Thursday the po-

lice searched more than a dozen Kurdish cultural and sport clubs for evidence of links to the recent attacks.

Interior Minister Manfred Kanther announced Wednesday that the German government intended to resume deportations of illegal Kurdish immigrants.

The repatriation of Kurds who unsuccessfully apply for political asylum was suspended last year because of concern that those sent back to Turkey could face imprisonment and torture.

Mr. Kanther, who had twice extended the moratorium, said he had received written guarantees from Turkey's interior minister that the human rights of those deported would be observed. A number of human rights activists and opposition officials expressed deep skepticism about Ankara's vows.

4 Die in New Istanbul Clashes Before Soldiers Restore Calm

ISTANBUL — Istanbul was quiet Thursday after four protesters were killed in fresh violence that followed two days of riots in Alawite Muslim areas of the city.

Security forces blocked all access to the Alawite neighborhoods, three in the Umraniye district and one in the adjacent Uskudar district, which were put under curfew on Wednesday. Soldiers patrolled the neighborhoods.

In the Gazi Alawite district, on the other side of the Bosphorus, a round-the-clock curfew imposed Monday was lifted at 6:30 A.M. Thursday, the Anatolian News Agency said.

The Istanbul police chief, Necdet Merzif, said in the Umraniye district that he was trying to work out a way to hold funerals for four people slain Wednesday without triggering more unrest.

The police said the deaths occurred after 1,500 demonstrators clashed with security forces during a protest over police handling of the rioting in Istanbul and Ankara. The police in Istanbul had fired on crowds while the police in Ankara turned back demonstrators with batons, water cannon and dogs.

Protesters say at least 30 people have been killed since Sunday, mostly Alawites. Officials

say 15 people were killed Sunday and Monday, and four on Wednesday in Umraniye.

The trouble began in the Gazi district of Istanbul on Sunday when unknown gunmen fired on coffee shops frequented by minority Alawite community, sparking riots during which the police opened fire.

Umraniye, one of Istanbul's oldest working class districts, grew out of a concentration of rural immigrants' homes. Parts of Umraniye, a bulwark of leftist sentiment, were controlled by hard-line Marxists for years in the turbulent 1970s.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller warned the country against possible "foreign provocations."

Pardon for Nazi Defectors Is Rejected

BONN — The federal government rejected on Thursday an opposition motion to rehabilitate Germans who deserted from Hitler's army or who were executed or jailed for undermining the Nazi war effort.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and their Free Democratic Party allies said a blanket pardon for anti-militarists convicted during World War II would be unfair to millions who fought loyally for their fatherland.

"We have to be careful not to make blanket judgments about

guilt and innocence in military courts and therefore in the former Wehrmacht," Rupert Scholz, a Christian Democratic Union deputy, told Parliament.

The opposition Social Democrats and Greens introduced separate motions in Parliament calling for the rehabilitation 50 years after the Third Reich collapsed, on May 8, 1945.

"There are only a few hundred left who could apply for compensation," said Volker Beck, a Greens deputy.

"Find a place in your heart for them at last," he urged the government deputies. "Let us

come to an agreement 50 years after the war's end that restores the dignity of the victims."

The motions, the third failed bid for rehabilitation in as many years, were referred to committees after the debate.

About 20,000 of the 30,000 Germans sentenced for desertion or undermining the war effort were executed during the war. Most of the others died in concentration camps.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Wary of Taking Strong Steps on Iran

White House Moves to Calm Senate on Major Trade Ban

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A proposed ban on all American economic contacts with Iran might cause more problems than it solves, and Congress should proceed cautiously in deciding whether to impose it, a senior State Department official told the Senate Banking Committee Thursday.

"We are concerned that some unilateral restrictions could hurt Americans more than the government of Iran," said Peter Tarnoff, an undersecretary of state. Such a ban might change Iranian behavior if other major industrial nations would support it, but they will not, Mr. Tarnoff said.

The committee chairman, Alfonse M. D'Amato, Republican of New York, said, however, that the current U.S. embargo on trade with Iran was "a myth" and "propaganda" because it permitted U.S. oil companies to buy Iranian crude oil and allows some U.S. exports to go to Iran.

[Iran has signed contracts with European companies connected with projects to develop a huge gas field and an oil field. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh was quoted as saying Thursday, Reuters reported from Tehran.]

"At the same time as the contract with the American company Conoco was canceled, we signed contracts covering South Pars field and Abuzor oil platform," he said. The announcement came a day after President Bill Clinton signed an order banning U.S. companies from oil investment contracts with Iran, effectively quashing a deal between Iran and the Conoco Inc. to develop oil and gas fields.

[Mr. Aghazadeh did not give details of the contracts, nor did he name the companies. An Iranian oil official said the deals were for "financing" the projects and signed with the German engineering firm IAB Leipzig and a Dutch unit of Britain's John Brown Engineering.]

Mr. Tarnoff's appearance before the committee amounted to a classic piece of Washington theater: Congress, in the person

of Mr. D'Amato and Senator Lauch Faircloth, Republican of North Carolina, demanding action in the name of principles, and the diplomats, in the person of Mr. Tarnoff, stressing nuance and urging caution.

Mr. Tarnoff did not specifically endorse or oppose a measure sponsored by Mr. D'Amato that would cut off purchases of Iranian oil by American companies and prohibit U.S. involvement in any enterprise with Iranian participation.

He said the Clinton administration was "carefully analyzing the measures you have proposed, and we look forward to discussing them with you and the committee in the days ahead."

That did not satisfy Mr. D'Amato, who has been clamoring for stronger U.S. action to undermine the Iranian regime. Mr. D'Amato praised President Bill Clinton for his decision Tuesday to prohibit Houston-based Conoco Inc. from developing two offshore oil and gas fields in Iran, but said that measure "did not go far enough."

The United States is "fighting with both hands tied behind its back," he said. Current law permits U.S. corporations to buy Iranian oil, as long as they do not import it directly into the United States; they do so, pumping \$4 billion a year into Tehran's coffers.

"If you're going to fight a tiger with a stick of bologna, he's going to take the bologna and take you, too," Mr. D'Amato said.

"If our purpose is to put the Iranian government out of business, why not put the screws to 'em?" Mr. Faircloth asked. "What do you propose to do?"

"Senator, that's a fair question and an important question," Mr. Tarnoff replied. He said the Clinton administration was "studying" the issue to devise a "plausible approach," but noted that "there are some complications."

For example, Mr. D'Amato's bill would apply to foreign subsidiaries of American corporations, but other countries have long resisted efforts to apply U.S. law to subsidiaries outside the United States, Mr. Tarnoff said.



BROWSING IN THE BAZAAR — Prince Charles of Britain touring a souk in the Moroccan city of Fez on Thursday, the second day of his three-day official visit to the country. He sampled olives and dates along the way.

Vatican Supports Iraq's Bid to End Sanctions by UN

New York Times Service

ROME — In its campaign against crippling economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations, Iraq won Thursday the support of the Vatican, which has long opposed such embargoes because of the harm they inflict on ordinary people.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and a member of the country's small Christian minority, won the assurance after meetings with both Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state.

The encounters came only three days after the UN Security Council again renewed the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The embargo prevents virtually all Iraqi exports of oil, once its main source of income.

The Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said the Vatican felt sanctions should be only a "temporary means of applying pressure on governments and must always be accompanied by a dialogue."

DESPERATE: Vietnamese Exodus Enters Final, Possibly Violent, Phase

Continued from Page 1

on fire and died in a protest over plans for their forced return to Vietnam.

Hundreds of Vietnamese in camps in Hong Kong have announced suicide pacts, and more than 200 were injured last April in a clash with the Hong Kong police after refusing to move to another camp in preparation for their forced return.

There have been scores of cases of self-mutilation by Vietnamese who have insisted they would rather die than go home.

"Many of these incidents were carried out more with a view toward attracting attention than causing real harm," said Jahanbakhsh Assadi, director of the Hong Kong mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"But we've had attempts at hanging, attempts at self-immolation, people taking a knife or sharp-edged instrument and puncturing their arms, legs, stomachs."

If they are forced back, many of the Vietnamese will return to a country different from the one they left years ago. Vietnam has abandoned Marxist economics and embraced the free market. The economy is booming, with

job opportunities unimaginable in the 1980s.

Vietnam remains an authoritarian country that imprisons political dissidents. But UN investigators say they found no credible evidence that any of the 68,000 asylum-seekers who have returned home have been harassed by the government.

The Hanoi government has vowed to treat the returning Vietnamese humanely.

While Vietnam's economic boom and the assurances of the United Nations should comfort those Vietnamese still in the detention camps, many remain clearly terrified about what they will confront if they are forced to go home.

Of the Vietnamese left in camps in Southeast Asia, about 24,000 are in Hong Kong, held in overcrowded, barbed-wire compounds that have long been an expensive embarrassment to the Hong Kong government.

The others are scattered throughout Southeast Asia, with about 3,300 in the Philippines.

When the "boat people" began pouring out of Vietnam after Communist forces toppled

South Vietnam in 1975, they were met with sympathy, especially from the United States, which took in more than 1 million Vietnamese over the last 20 years.

But the West's sympathy has run out. Virtually all the Vietnamese who have made it to Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian way stations in the 1990s have been labeled economic migrants—not refugees, a label that requires substantiated proof of fear of persecution in Vietnam—and have been refused entrance to the United States and other nations.

In 1989, Vietnam and its neighbors reached agreement on a plan that was supposed to have all of the remaining asylum-seekers back in Vietnam by the end of this year.

The December 1995 deadline is almost certain to pass with tens of thousands of Vietnamese still held in the camps, yet governments in the region vow to complete the returns within a few months of the original schedule, probably by the middle of next year.

Vietnam has agreed to take

back a total of 3,600 refugees each month.

Refugee groups and human-rights campaigners have long praised the Philippines for having run some of the most humane detention camps in the region for the Vietnamese.

But the Manila government is eager to close its last two camps and see the last of the Vietnamese go home.

U.S. Defense Secretary Sets Tour of the Gulf

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William J. Perry is to begin a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia and four other moderate Gulf states on Saturday to strengthen U.S. military ties with the region and send a warning to Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Perry goes first to Saudi Arabia to talk with King Fahd and senior officials, then to Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar for discussions with leaders before returning home next Thursday night.

UN: Republican Cutback Plans Stir Doubts on U.S. Role

Continued from Page 1

problems," Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, said at a recent hearing on the organization.

A Clinton administration request for \$672 million in new aid for 1995 UN peacekeeping dues was rejected last month before it left the first subcommittee. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended taking back \$57 million from funds already appropriated for 1995.

UN diplomats are reluctant to speak openly because of a taboo on interfering in American politics. But envoys from several U.S. allies have been quietly making their case to skeptical legislators in Washington.

"If the United States makes big cuts in UN aid and its own foreign aid at the same time, it will be seen as an abdication of the leadership role it has always taken," a European ambassador said.

The United States pays one-quarter of the UN operating budget and about 31 percent of peacekeeping costs, the highest assessed dues for any member state. It makes the largest voluntary contributions to many agencies, such as Unicef and the UN Development Program.

As a result, U.S. diplomats

enjoy special say in many policy decisions and Americans are favored for senior posts in the UN secretariat and agencies. Top Unicef and Development Program directors always have been Americans.

Now Europe has mounted a challenge for the top job at Unicef, open since the longtime executive director, James Grant, died last month. The European Union signaled to Mr. Boutros Ghali, who makes the appointment, that it believed its time had come to get the position.

The Europeans point out that although the United States gave \$135 million last year, much smaller Sweden gave \$113 million and Europe's combined funding far exceeded that of the United States.

Europe has strengthened its case by putting forward two female candidates: Elisabeth Rehn, 59, a former Finnish defense minister, and Anne-Marie Lizin, 46, a prominent member of the Belgian Parliament.

The Clinton administration proposed William H. Foote, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and a close associate of former President Jimmy Carter's. For the past decade, he has led a task force coordinating child health programs among UN agencies.

But one U.S. official quipped that Dr. Foote's disadvantage was that "he needs a sex-change operation," and another said, "Boutros Ghali seems determined to apply diversity in this case."

Clinton administration officials are wrangling over whether to drop Dr. Foote for a female candidate.

"The United States believes that because of our long-standing financial and political commitment to Unicef, an American should be the director," said James Rubin, the U.S. spokesman at the United Nations.

Vice President Al Gore lobbied Mr. Boutros Ghali at the UN summit on social development in Copenhagen last weekend. But the secretary-general is watching to see if the United States intends to maintain its commitment to the agency, UN officials said.

On another front, Europe has proposed that governments that lag in their payments be penalized in the distribution of jobs, committee positions and UN procurement contracts.

The United States pays in October, 10 months after assessments are due, and has the largest arrears — \$399 million, according to UN figures.

V-E DAY: Russian Leader Tailors Red Square Parade to Attract Clinton

Continued from Page 1

want to be seen and photographed amid modern Russian military equipment, the kind being used in Chechnya to put down the secessionist movement led by Mr. Dudayev.

Mr. Yeltsin said, "We want to arrange a program so that in Red Square there will be a military parade, but without any military equipment." He said there would be speeches by him and by veterans.

Other Russian officials said the Red Square parade would consist of some 2,500 World War II veterans, and be preceded by religious ceremonies. Another parade, including modern arms and soldiers, is being planned for Poklonnaya Hill in northern Moscow, some distance from Red Square, which Mr. Clinton will not be asked to visit.

This was Mr. Yeltsin's first extended meeting with the press in some time, and he looked fit and spoke firmly and clearly. Several weeks ago, Mr. Yeltsin seemed unable to walk without assistance during a trip to Kazakhstan, and he has been rumored to drink heavily and to need medication for back pain.

He seemed in a good mood Thursday, and often reacted vigorously when he disagreed with a question. He was most angered when he was told that many in the West wondered who was directing Russia's economic policy.

"The most important decisions are taken by the president," he responded emphatically.

The editors, from the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Egypt and Japan, had been asked to come specifi-

cally to receive briefings on Chechnya. Fighting continues in the region, but at a less ferocious pace than a month ago when Russian troops battled hard for control of Grozny, the capital. Little was said that was new about Chechnya, either by Mr. Yeltsin or at a larger session Wednesday night in which officials from several ministries took part.

Although Washington has been somewhat critical of the use of force in Chechnya, it has supported Moscow's right to quell secessionist movements, and Mr. Yeltsin seemed appreciative of the American attitude.

"I must say that the United States and President Clinton were very restrained and quiet in assessing the situation in Chechnya," he said, "and President Clinton on many occasions, including news conferences, was very firm in asserting that he firmly supports President Yeltsin."

So far, of the World War II allies, only President Francois Mitterrand of France has said he would be in Moscow on May 9. In the United States and Western Europe, V-E Day is celebrated on May 8, and Mr. Clinton has reportedly been weighing whether to hold a ceremony in Washington on May 8 or whether to attend ceremonies in London and Paris on that date.

There has been no word from the British on their plans. Russian officials said, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany has reportedly also been invited, and Mr. Yeltsin said during the meeting that he has become closer to Mr. Kohl than to any other Western leader.

"I can also add that it is with Helmut Kohl of all the world leaders that we have

the most frequent telephone conversations," he said. "Hardly a week passes without me calling him or him calling me. I believe this is very helpful, and we compare notes. We have very good relations with him, and very good contacts. We are real friends."

On Chechnya, Mr. Yeltsin said that although he would not deal with Mr. Dudayev, officials were still trying to negotiate with other representatives.

"I believe, at this time, they are moving on more energetically than in the past," he said. "We are talking with the elders, district representatives, city representatives and leaders. We have already set up the government of Chechnya, and are looking forward to organizing elections to the Chechen Parliament."

He was referring to the Russian effort to create a rival government to Mr. Dudayev's, especially in areas under Russian control.

But he acknowledged that the efforts had not won much Western support.

"We realize that until such democratic elections are held, we will be unable to convince the world that the situation in Chechnya is really positive, really democratic and that there are no human rights violations," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin gave a fairly optimistic appraisal of Russian society. He said that the pace of economic reform was doing better than last year, with inflation now at about 11 percent a month, compared with 17 percent a year ago. He said the goal was to lower inflation to between 1 and 2 percent a month by the end of the year.

ern Guangdong Province since 1983 and has found evidence of disease in the different thickness of the shells, their texture and trace element contents, the official Xinhua press agency reported.

Eggs from the Cretaceous-Tertiary period 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs died out, appeared to be diseased as a result of an imbalance in trace elements in the dinosaurs' diet, Xinhua quoted Zhao Zikui, a paleontologist and team member from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying.

About 200,000 to 300,000 years before the dinosaurs' disappearance, an extremely dry climate increased the supply of trace elements in the soil and water, Mr. Zhao said.

This disturbed dinosaur reproduction, resulting in diseased eggs, he said. The increase in trace elements in the protein of the eggs greatly reduced their chance of hatching.

In southern China, a team of Chinese and German scientists said they might have found a clue to the disappearance of the Jurassic-era giants: a diet imbalance traced to the diseased shell of fossilized eggs.

The team has been studying dinosaur eggs dug up in south-

CEILINGS: No Room at the Top

Continued from Page 1

and prejudices of white male executives on the lower rungs of the corporate ladder.

The report cited various studies suggesting "that the glass ceiling exists because of the perception of many white males that as a group they are losing — losing the corporate game, losing control and losing opportunity."

"Many middle- and upper-level white male managers view the inclusion of minorities and women in management as a direct threat to their own chances for advancement," the report said.

Those male managers, the report implied, actually stand no better odds of reaching the top today than they did 30 years ago. But if there has always been competition, the face of it has changed. White men, the report said, have circled the wagons against challengers whom they view not in terms of

their merit but in terms of their color and sex.

In hearings across the country, commission members heard hundreds of top- and middle-level managers, male and female, testify that white men were stymieing the progress of women and minorities. Those who do break through are often shunted to the anterooms of the executive suite, into dead-end staff jobs, like directors of personnel and public relations.

Referring to interviews with chief executives, the commission concluded: "Corporate leaders are talking the talk of inclusion. Yet minorities and women express dismay and anger when they describe what they perceive to be insurmountable obstacles to their corporate advancement. In short, there is a difference between what corporate leadership says it wants to happen and what is actually happening."

DNA: One Thundering Step Nearer

Continued from Page 1

to that fiction. "That was a science fiction movie," he said. "That was dinosaur blood from a mosquito but this is the real DNA from an egg, so to some degree we have found evidence for this science fiction movie."

But he added that the reproduction of a dinosaur could remain a fantasy.

"Such a thing could take a very long time and needs a lot of research," Mr. Zhou said.

The scientists said that this was the first gene material found in a fossilized egg. Tests ruled out that the DNA had entered the egg after it split open, they added.

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PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Time to Visit Moscow

The White House should stop agonizing and accept the Russian invitation for Bill Clinton to attend ceremonies on May 8 marking the 50th anniversary of the German surrender in World War II.

His advisers are overly concerned that President Clinton's presence would be taken as a blanket endorsement of President Boris Yeltsin and the savage Russian war in Chechnya. That need not be the case. With some skillful stagecraft, Mr. Clinton could actually use the occasion to reach out to Russian reformers and to remind Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian army that the Chechen war is a betrayal of the principles that united the allies in the war against fascism.

The president belongs in Moscow on May 8 to honor the Russian sacrifices of World War II. Just as American presidents have paid tribute to the American, British, French and other West European soldiers who lost their lives fighting Hitler's armies, Mr. Clinton should offer American sympathy and gratitude for the millions of Russians who died in battles from Leningrad to Stalingrad to Berlin. No country invested and lost more in the war, and no country played a more vital role in the defeat of Germany. The Russian losses still stagger: more than 25 million Soviet soldiers and civilians perished, with Russians taking the heaviest hit.

Russians, particularly older generations, could not forgive the United States for snubbing the May 8 commemoration. The war occupies a singular place in the Russian national identity that is hard for Americans to appreciate. Even as Communist propaganda about the "Great Patriotic War" has faded, and Stalin's war-

time leadership has been demythologized, Russians still consider the war an extraordinary moment of national sacrifice, triumph and unity. For many, it is the only achievement in a miserable century of famine, terror and tyranny.

In going to Moscow, Mr. Clinton could take a page from Ronald Reagan's 1988 visit, when Mr. Reagan conducted business with the Soviet leadership while dining with dissidents and taking every opportunity to talk to Russians about democracy. While in Moscow, Mr. Clinton could meet with reformers who have broken with Mr. Yeltsin, making clear that he does not support Mr. Yeltsin's drift toward authoritarian rule. He could remind the Russian army of its duty to defend democratic principles, and take General John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, with him to talk to Russian counterparts about military reform. He could urge Russian politicians and businessmen to speed the transition to a market economy.

All this would make it abundantly clear that Mr. Clinton was in Moscow not to endorse Mr. Yeltsin but to affirm American support for reform.

The president could even invite Senator Bob Dole to join him. Mr. Dole, who fought and nearly died in World War II, would be a fitting American representative at the commemoration. It would be easier for Mr. Dole to stay home and criticize Mr. Clinton for making the trip. But Clinton and Dole standing together in Moscow on May 8 would be a powerful symbol of America's enduring ties with a newly free Russia.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Iran and North Korea

By ordering an American company not to produce oil for Iran, President Bill Clinton has reaffirmed the American condemnation of an outlaw government. Iran supports terrorism, threatens the peace abroad, routinely violates its own people's rights and is working hard to build nuclear weapons. The United States must deal with a wide range of countries guilty of some or, occasionally, most of those offenses. In some it encourages wider commercial contacts and investment in the hope of influencing their conduct. China is the most conspicuous case. In others — the countries whose conduct one American official termed "beyond the pale" — the United States has cut off most kinds of contact.

Sometimes the reasons for these distinctions are clear, and sometimes not. Under the rules applied to Iran, for example, it is not easy to justify the policy of supplying oil, let alone promising nuclear technology, to North Korea.

The American company Conoco was to have developed two offshore oil and gas fields in the Gulf. The Iranians chose it presumably because, among other reasons, they wanted to test the U.S. reaction. The administration has replied that it will not approve American investments there until Iran begins to change its behavior.

That decision is a political signal, with no significant cost to either country. If Conoco does not produce the oil, another company, probably French, will do it. If Congress goes a step further and prohibits all American companies even from buying Iranian oil, other companies under other flags will step in. One effect would be to make the United States slightly more dependent on Saudi Arabia, but Saudi oil is already sufficiently important to America and its allies that a small increase in that dependence makes little difference. The president's decision will have no real effect on oil markets.

But it constitutes a substantial step in the process of working out American attitudes toward the outlaw governments. It is possible to draw some distinctions between Iran and North Korea. Iran's influence among radical Muslim fundamentalists gives it a much longer reach than North Korea's. North Korea has not been to war quite so recently as Iran. And so forth. Each case has its own history and circumstances. But when all that is acknowledged, there remains an element of inconsistency in the administration's different approaches to these two governments that refuse to live by the same rules as most of the rest of the world.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

The Smoking Sickness

Ninety percent of all American smokers pick up the habit in their teens, and their reasons for doing so are the same now as they were 50 years ago. Their friends smoke. A cigarette is a cool accessory. Smoking is a rite of passage. They will not know until the day they try to quit that they are exposing themselves to a substance, nicotine, that the National Institutes of Health says is as addictive as heroin and five to 10 times more potent than cocaine or morphine in producing effects on mood and behavior.

Dr. David Kessler, the commissioner of Food and Drugs, calls smoking "a pediatric disease." While the adult quit rate is increasing, the teenage start rate stays the same. During the last 10 years there has been a decrease in smoking among all age groups except adolescents,

and the number of young female smokers has actually gone up.

In a recent speech at Columbia University, Dr. Kessler asked for a comprehensive program that would involve not just educating youngsters about the dangers of nicotine but making it harder for them to buy cigarettes. He also spoke of reducing the "powerful imagery" in tobacco advertising and promotion that is so attractive to kids. (Joe and Josephine Camel are as familiar to 6-year-olds as Mickey Mouse.)

Every year more than 400,000 Americans die from illnesses related to Dr. Kessler's "pediatric disease." Surely a country that has erased so many other diseases associated with childhood will want to nip this one in the bud as well.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

France Is Right About Cuba

After watching how President François Mitterrand cooed over Fidel Castro, calling the U.S.-led blockade of Cuba "stupid," I concluded that what preoccupies the French is not sex but a lust to exasperate the United States.

Whatever one might feel about the U.S. blockade of Cuba, Fidel Castro is a genuine despot with an atrocious human rights record. His regime is an economic failure and morally squelched.

But when Mr. Mitterrand ridicules the Cuban boycott, he has logic on his side. Why, after all, should the United States

gladly — at times humiliatingly — do business with Cuba when it won't do business with Cuba? By no standard is China freer than Cuba.

The Cuban boycott is a Cold War relic. It was a response to Mr. Castro's communism, his alliance with the Soviet Union, his expropriation of American businesses and, of course, his dumb and reckless decision to allow Moscow to place missiles on his island nation. But the Soviet Union is no more, the missiles are gone and Mr. Castro's communism should be of no account to the United States.

—Richard Cohen, commenting in The Washington Post

Greenspan's Rosy Rationale for Tough American Choices

By James K. Glassman

WASHINGTON — Benign neglect can sometimes solve currency problems, but the dollar is so weak right now that the only way to preserve its status as the world's reserve currency may be a sharp increase in interest rates. "We fear that the ending of this will not be pretty," wrote Ray Dalio, an astute financial analyst, in a fax to his clients last week.

Exchange rates are a complicated and emotional subject. No one really knows why they go up and down, but there is certainly a glut of explanations for the latest crash in the dollar.

"The Mexican crisis is almost certainly the single biggest factor," said economist John Mueller of Lehman Bell Mueller Cannon in testimony before a Senate committee. "It comes down to a lack of confidence in the ability of new Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Hobart Rowen of The Washington Post wrote.

Charles Raymond, who runs the currency consulting firm Prexex in New York, says the dollar will keep falling simply because it is too popular, especially in emerging countries — "the best U.S. brand since Coca-Cola." And with so many greenbacks floating around the world, the dollar has been cheapened as a "store of value."

But there is another explanation that is easier to understand. America's twin deficits, in trade and in the federal budget, are forcing it to borrow too much. Through the

early 1980s, the United States was the world's biggest creditor; now it is the world's biggest debtor.

When foreigners lend to America, they have to trade their own currencies for dollars. Now the Japanese, for example, are saying they will part with only about 90 yen to buy a dollar. In 1985 they parted with 265 yen.

If the dollar keeps falling fast, these lenders may become reluctant to make dollar investments at almost any price. (That is what happened with peso investments in Mexico.) The only way to lure them will be with higher interest rates.

Mr. Dalio believes that if the Federal Reserve moves quickly (it meets on March 28), the rate increase may only have to be one percentage point, or two or three. That would probably mean a recession. But if the Fed waits longer, "the eventual rate hikes and economic damage will have to be more severe."

The truth is that the Fed has shown little appetite for raising interest rates to attract foreigners to the dollar. But the dollar's weakness may force the Fed's hand for a different reason — something that economists call "imported inflation."

To make up for a falling dollar, foreign manufacturers have to raise the prices they

charge for goods they import into the United States. It is likely that Japanese cars, for example, will cost more in America. If that happens, American automakers will raise their prices, too, slipping under the Japanese umbrella.

In his testimony before the House Budget Committee last Wednesday last week, Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman, admitted that imported inflation could be a problem and that "it is important to contain such pressures" — which the Fed does by raising interest rates to dampen economic activity.

Of course, there is a better way to strengthen the dollar. The U.S. government could stop borrowing \$200 billion a year by balancing its budget.

In fact, the defeat in the Senate of a constitutional amendment to do just that, and the subsequent beatification in the press of Saint Mark Hatfield, the only Republican dissenter, may even have ignited the dollar sell-off.

If so, then Congress will soon get a chance to show the international markets that it is serious. The House Appropriations chairman, Bob Livingston (Republican of Louisiana), is pushing a bill that would cut spending by \$11 billion immediately. That may not sound like much, but it is actually revolutionary. In the past, Congress has used floods and earthquakes as excuses to raise spending in the

middle of the year through "dire emergency" supplemental bills.

Representative John Kasich (Republican of Ohio), the budget chairman, has a list of reductions totaling nearly \$200 billion. Those cuts would merely pay for the tax reductions in the "Contract With America," but again, they should encourage the markets. Then, in May, Mr. Kasich will present what he calls "The Big One" — the spending cuts to bring the budget into balance by 2002.

Even if the tax reductions are trimmed by the Senate (and many House Republicans privately hope that they will be), balancing the budget won't be easy. That is why Mr. Kasich asked Mr. Greenspan for some spine-stiffening words for rubbery members of Congress.

"What would you tell the American people the reasons would be for making some tough choices up front?" Mr. Kasich asked. In the short run, Mr. Greenspan replied, "there would be some strain." Then, as borrowing fell, so would interest rates, and "the effects would be rather startling." Real incomes would rise, and Americans would be ensured that their kids would live better than they have been living.

"That's an awesome statement, Mr. Chairman!" said Mr. Kasich, practically bouncing out of his seat.

The Washington Post

Romania's Choice: Prompt Reform or Stagnation and Instability

By Alfred H. Moses

The writer is the U.S. ambassador to Romania.

BUCHAREST — For many people in the West, the mention of Romania conjures up images of the trial of Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu, of unwanted babies in overcrowded, ill-equipped orphanages, or of an economy devastated by 40 years of Communist oppression. But what does the future hold five years after the revolution that ended Communist rule?

Romania is a potentially rich country. It has abundant natural resources, including oil, and an educated and well-trained work force. Its external debt is low. When European communism collapsed in 1989, Poland's external debt was \$35 billion, Hungary's \$17 billion and Romania's virtually zero.

Eighty percent of Romania's rich farmland is now in private hands. More than 400,000 private businesses have sprouted up, and together they employ

almost half of the work force. The Romanian leu has been stable against the dollar for the past year, thanks to a tough stabilization program backed by the International Monetary Fund. Last year, Romania's gross domestic product grew by more than 3 percent and real wages increased for the first time in five years.

Inflation fell to 62 percent last year after reaching 300 percent the year before. Finance Minister Florin Georgescu predicts it will drop to 30 percent this year and that GDP and real wages will again increase.

Romania has a freely elected government. All political parties support closer ties to the West.

But Romania's moment of truth is fast approaching. Nine-

ty-six percent of industrial production is still state-owned. Unless Romania moves rapidly to privatize the 6,000 remaining state-owned businesses, and dismantles the Soviet-style industrial dinosaurs that cost it \$2 billion a year, the progress to date will be for naught. Economic stagnation and political extremism are likely to re-emerge.

For the IMF to continue to support Romania's economic program, and for the World Bank to lend Romania the money it needs for its balance of payments while it restructures its worst-performing companies, three steps are essential.

• The Parliament must adopt a privatization law covering 3,000 small and medium-sized state-owned businesses that has

been tied up in legislative wrangling since September.

• Romania needs to enact a Western-style bankruptcy law and to create a stock market so that shares in newly created companies can be bought and sold at real market prices. A stock market would also provide the mechanism to attract desperately needed foreign capital. Total foreign investment in Romania is a little more than \$1 billion, compared to \$8 billion in Hungary, a country with a population less than half of Romania's.

• The Romanian government must stick with a tight monetary policy, despite the hardships this imposes on the people in the short run. This is not politically popular in a country where real wages are only 60 percent of what they were when Mr. Ceausescu fell. Romanian politicians have not forgotten the political upheaval in 1991 caused

by declining living standards.

Unless Romania makes the hard choices now, it faces a future of economic stagnation and political instability that will doom its chances of becoming a full partner with the West.

That is sure to arouse historic Romanian fears of being left in a security and political vacuum between East and West. Romanians remember France's abandoning the Little Entente at Munich in 1938, leaving Romania to fend for itself between Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia, with devastating consequences.

Romania is now at a critical point in its negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank. The outcome of these negotiations will determine whether Romania, like Cinderella, gets a chance to dance with Prince Charming or goes back to living with the mice in the kitchen.

International Herald Tribune

A Chance for Croats and Serbs to Avert the Approaching Explosion

By Misha Glenny

SALONIKA, Greece — The Clinton administration has persuaded Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to retreat from a course of action that might have led to full-scale war with Serbia. War still cannot be ruled out.

A lot depends both on the rebel Serbian minority that rules one-third of Croatia, a region called Krajina, and on the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic.

The immediate threat was defused when the international community, but particularly the U.S. State Department, got Mr. Tudjman to rescind his decision to evict 12,500 United Nations peacekeepers who monitor the so-called zone of separation between Krajina and the rest of Croatia.

Even so, Mr. Tudjman insists on a reduction from 12,500

troops to 5,000 — and, crucially, that the 5,000 patrol not only the zone of separation but also Krajina's borders with Bosnia and Serbia to try to prevent Serbs in those countries from giving the Krajina Serbs military support.

The United Nations worries about its ability to perform both tasks with reduced personnel.

The Serbs in Knin, the Krajina "capital," and in Belgrade are debating whether to accept any change in the mandate. If the Serbs in Knin don't want the international borders patrolled because they want no interference with military supplies, Mr. Tudjman might well insist that all 12,500 peacekeepers leave. Then both armies would grab for strategic

points along this 1,100-kilometer line. The Croats would make substantial gains. Belgrade would be under overwhelming domestic pressure to send troops to support the Krajina Serbs.

The front line between the armies has been stable since the plan that created the UN presence was signed in 1991 by Zagreb, Knin and Belgrade.

Croatia now claims that the UN force is consolidating the status quo. Croatia's impatience is understandable. Part of Krajina cuts the main railway link between Zagreb and the Dalmatian coast, whose tourist industry is potentially Croatia's largest foreign currency earner.

Also, Croatia's delicate econo-

my has to sustain almost half a million refugees, many of whom were driven out of the Serbian-held area. Unable to return home, they represent an influential and angry constituency in Croatia.

Zagreb is guilty of misrepresentation when it claims that the United Nations has made no progress in helping to reintegrate the Krajina region into Croatia.

Mr. Tudjman's move to end the UN mandate came after Knin and Zagreb signed an economic agreement in December following UN-sponsored negotiations. The pact enabled Croatian drivers to use their country's main highway, which has been closed for almost four years where it crosses the Serbian-held territory. The agreement also opened a pipeline.

Real progress was being made toward the start of political negotiations on the status of the rebel Serbs when Mr. Tudjman surprised everybody by ordering the United Nations out. This was evidently a tactic to deflect attention from the crisis in Bosnia and focus it on Zagreb's frustrations.

By backing down last weekend from this cynically manufactured crisis, Mr. Tudjman got his payoff — promises of Western economic support.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany said that now that Croatia has allowed the United Nations to stay, the peaceful reintegration of the Krajina region must be accelerated. To make that possible, he asked Mr. Milosevic to recognize Croatia.

The West has already told Mr. Milosevic that if he recognizes Croatia and Bosnia, UN economic sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia imposed in 1992 will be lifted. This is a nice idea, but it will not work.

Mr. Milosevic argues that he can consider recognition only if the sanctions, which have made life miserable for ordinary Serbs,

are first lifted. This would enable him to appease his restless domestic constituency.

There is a way out of the impasse. The UN Security Council should suspend the sanctions for a limited time. Any permanent member of the council could insist on reimposing them if Mr. Milosevic was unable or unwilling to deliver on his promises.

Suspension would allow him to demonstrate to his own population that talks, not war, provide the best solution to the crisis that has made a mess of all of the former Yugoslavia — except Slovenia. Without a suspension of sanctions, any appeal to Mr. Milosevic to recognize Croatia and Bosnia will fall on deaf ears.

Sanctions aside, his position on the Krajina region is clear. Zagreb and Knin must arrive at a political solution that defines the special rights and status of the Serbs who would remain in Croatia. Once this happened, he would recognize Croatia.

So even if the Serbs in Knin and in Belgrade agree on a change in the UN mandate, Zagreb will still have to negotiate with Knin if it wants to avoid the use of force in getting Krajina back.

The U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, has come up with a document that the international community thinks should be the basis for negotiations. It envisions a return of Krajina while giving the Serbs special status.

The Croats have doubts. But both they and the Serbs should use the offices of Mr. Galbraith and other mediators to explore the opportunities for a settlement. Anything else could lead to an explosion in the northern Balkans.

The writer, author of "The Fall of Yugoslavia," is now preparing a book on Balkan nationalism since 1904. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Push to Peking?

NEW YORK — Colonel John A. Cockerill sends a letter to the Herald from Japan, dated Tokyo, March 1. He says: "Japan cannot afford to reject the peace overtures which Li-Hung-Chang will carry, but it is believed here that some juggling delay will be adopted. The popular heart is set on going to Peking and will not be satisfied otherwise. Active preparations are also being made for a descent upon Formosa. Before peace is settled, Japan will have fastened her claws upon the richest of Chinese possessions."

1920: Coffee Instead
NEW YORK — Coffee-drinking is the favorite diversion of hotel patrons these wintry evenings, according to Mr. Copeland Townsend, of the Hotel Majestic, who has statistics to show that at the

Majestic, coffee sales have increased more than 400 percent since prohibition went into effect. Dance crowds too are resorting to coffee, and it is said that 4 or 5 cups an evening is the usual order.

1945: V-2 Rocket Bombs

LONDON — Permission to disclose that German V-2 rocket bombs have been dropping on London, causing casualties and damage in the world's largest city, was granted by censorship here for the first time today [March 16]. Censorship still forbids publication of anything identifying exact areas where V-bombs land. Despite some damage there has been no dislocation of the city life and people are not unduly impressed by the rocket bombs, which contain a ton of explosive and go off without warning after dropping from a height of 60 miles faster than the speed of sound.



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THE MOVIE GUIDE

It's That Time of Year in Amsterdam

By Daralace D. Boles



Sean Connery and Laurence Fishburne in a scene from "Just Cause."

Just Cause

Directed by Arne Glimcher. U.S.
The crime thriller "Just Cause" has been directed so antiseptically that it lacks all sense of lifelike detail. Despite good looks, it offers a textbook example of direction (by Arne Glimcher) that's utterly out of sync with its subject matter. All the actors are immaculately barbered, whether they are in the groves of academe or on death row. A Florida swamp is photographed so crisply that it seems to have no humidity. Their eyes are light bulbs. This police story didn't need alligators, anyhow. Bobby Earl Ferguson (Blair Underwood) is arrested for murder and his sweet, humble, acrobatic grandma (Ruby Dee) travels by bus to enlist the aid of Paul Armstrong (Sean Connery), a distinguished Harvard Law School professor. Dropping everything, Armstrong takes the case. He is advised by his wife (Kate Capshaw) that helping Ferguson will put him "in the real world." "Just Cause" displays no inkling of where that might be. Laurence Fishburne, who outshines most of the material he's given, brings this film its only excitement. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

L'Enigme

Directed by Youssef Chahine. France, Egypt.

The biblical tribulations of Joseph and his jealous brothers inspired the Egyptian director Youssef Chahine to make a modern, popular movie without the benefit of a Hollywood budget. A bearded patriarch (Michel Piccoli) lives in the desert with his shepherd sons; his favorite, Ram, the youngest (Khaled El Nabouli), is tested, tricked and punished mercilessly. Escape comes in a violent form when the brothers beat Ram and

leave him for dead in the hull of a boat that sails for Egypt. His cleverness and beauty win him a place in the Pharaoh's court and the household of Amihir (Mahmoud Hemida), a commander of armies. Ram returns to the desert, on the Egyptian side, and makes miracles, cultivating wheat, saving the people from famine. Chahine has captured the passion of a self-made man from the Third World, the drama of exile to an opulent society. The director has created a vibrant fresco with characters that ring true. And this is the miracle. (Joan Dupont, IHT)

Naran

Directed by Makoto Shiina. Japan.

Makoto Shiina, a popular author and sometime film director, took his crew all the way to Mongolia to make this interesting movie about a small boy and his big ambition to win the boy's horse race at the summer festival. It is to the director's credit that we are not once reminded of "National Velvet." Also, the little boy does not win the race and is winningly philosophical about it. As played by the young actor Ganboldin Baasankhuu, he is, in fact, a very real little boy. All of the Mongolian actors are extremely good. They have an extraordinary ease before the camera and the ability to convey real emotions with restraint and economy. Not always so the director. He cuts away to Disneyesque close-ups of cute animals and pretty flowers and is personally responsible for having commissioned a truly dreadful score by André Gagnon — new age meanderings that have nothing to do with Mongolia, or anything else. But it isn't often that we get to see this wildly beautiful country and these winning people so closely. (Donald Richie, IHT)

AMSTERDAM — It's tulip time in Amsterdam, and every Amsterdammer who is not nibbling on raw herring, another spring-time tradition, will have in hand the tell-tale white paper package filled with tightly closed buds.

The more exotic and expensive varieties can be enjoyed en masse at the Keukenhof, a 70-acre (30-hectare) garden of 6 million bulbs in Lisse, a half-hour south of Amsterdam. In town, too, flowers are everywhere: in outdoor stalls or in greater concentration at the Floating Flower Market on barges on the Singel by the Muntplein.

Pastry and candy shops also outdo themselves in the spring in anticipation of first of Easter and then of Queen's Day, a national holiday on April 30. It's worth a stroll by Kwekkeboom (36 Reguliersbreestraat) to see the solid chocolate Easter baskets, the marzipan bunnies and the pastry parade.

The spring calendar of the Rijksmuseum includes an exhibition of 19th-century Japanese prints by artists such as Hokusai and Hiroshige. "The Age of Elegance: 18th-Century Paintings From the Rijksmuseum" runs from April 29 to Sept. 24. For information, call 672-2121 (the dialing code for the Netherlands is 31; the code for Amsterdam is 20).

"Alfa Romeo: La Bellezza Necessaria" runs through April 2 at the Stedelijk Museum, 873-2911. The exhibition features 10 automobiles from the 1930s up to the 1995 Spider, together with original drawings, design documents, photos and films.

Next door, the Van Gogh Museum, 570-5200, has opened its renovated temporary exhibition space on the third floor with a show on the French Impressionist Jean-Louis Forain.

The Concertgebouw (671-8345) has started a Sunday morning series featuring various ensembles in a mainly classical repertoire, such as Beethoven's Piano Trio in D and Rachmaninoff's Piano Trio in G, to be performed by the Osiris Trio on April 2 at 11 A.M.

Other highlights of the spring season

include performances by the violinist Itzhak Perlman on April 26 at 8:15 P.M. and the pianist Alfred Brendel on June 11 at 8:15. The Wednesday lunch concerts at 12:30 in the Kleine Zaal are free. Box office: 671-8345.

The Info-Line (675-4411) explains what tickets are available for the next 24 hours.

Through March, the Muziektheater, 3 Amstel, 625-5455, will alternate performances of Arnold Schoenberg's "Trilogy" by the Netherlands Opera (March 22, 26, 28 and 30 at 8 P.M. and next Sunday at 1:30 P.M.) and a new production of "Sleeping Beauty" by the National Ballet (Saturday and March 20, 21, 23, 24, 27 and 31 at 8 P.M.; March 26 and 29 at 2 P.M.). On April 3, 4, 6 and 7 at 8:15 P.M. the ballet revives the drama-dance "Shamrock" by the American choreographer Carolyn Carlson, and the opera finishes a run of Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri" (April 21, 26, 29 at 8 P.M. and April 23 at 1:30).

The Netherlands Tourist Bureau (known as VVV, for its initials in Dutch) publishes a series of six city walks, lasting from two to four hours, that provide a synthesis of social, political and architectural history for only \$1.75 each. "Jewish Amsterdam" starts and finishes at the Jewish Historical Museum, tel. 626-9945, worth a visit in its own right, both for its site — four 17th-century and 18th-century synagogues — and its exhibitions on Jewish life in Amsterdam, past and present. Admission is free.

One of the newer tours covers the Plantage, a district of tree-lined boulevards and botanical gardens that forms a sharp

contrast to the tight, canal-bound downtown. Another topical tour covers maritime Amsterdam, while a fourth explores the Jordaan, Amsterdam's Soho. This once working-class neighborhood is fast gentrifying, with new boutiques and cafes lining the narrow, crooked streets.

Close by the Jordaan, at the Anne Frank House, 263 Prinsengracht, 626-4533, is a newly found letter written by Anne's father, Otto, to an English cousin after his release from Auschwitz, but before he had learned of his family's fate.

Many moderately priced hotels occupy restored townhouses along the canals. They are small, scenic and popular, so book as soon as possible. The Netherlands Board of Tourism publishes a hotel guide for Amsterdam, and reservations can be made through the Netherlands Reservation Center, (70) 317-5454, fax (70) 320-2611.

FOR Dutch home cooking, try Keuken van 1870, 4 Spuistraat, 624-8965, where the portions are huge, the prices low and the taste typically Dutch, from the sausage with mashed potatoes and gravy to vegetable stew and split-pea soup — with a glass of beer or wine and good Dutch coffee. Lunch or dinner, served from noon to 8 P.M. will cost \$10 a person.

On the other side of the city, and a world away in atmosphere, Café De Jaren, 20 Nieuwe Doelenstraat, 625-5771, is bigger and brighter than the typical Dutch "brown café." You can sit for hours nurs-

ing a cup of coffee or a beer and watch tour boats glide by on the Amstel River. A bowl of soup and a broodje, cheese or meat on a Dutch roll, costs \$6. More expensive meals are available either in the café or, starting at 5:30 P.M., in an upstairs restaurant, whose conventional but tasty menu runs from grilled steaks and salmon to an elaborate salad bar. Expect to spend \$18 a person with a glass of beer or wine.

Amsterdam is known for its Indonesian restaurants. One of the best is Speciaal, 142 Nieuwe Leliestraat, 624-9706. Reservations are essential as the restaurant is small. If you've never tried rijstafel, a sampling of up to 20 different Indonesian dishes, do so now, for \$23.50 a person, plus a \$2.50 beer.

Expect to spend the evening over a leisurely dinner at Bordewijk, 7 Noordermarkt, 624-3899, where most diners seem to keep their table for the night. The bistro, designed by a Dutch furniture designer, Rob Eckhardt, has curved wood walls and a colored marquee. It is very popular, so reservations are essential.

The menu ranges from pumpkin soup with calf's sweetbreads sausage to monkfish in bacon with wild mushroom ravioli and parsley butter. The wine list is extensive. Dinner is at least \$50 a person à la carte with wine, but set menus of three to five courses are available from \$36.

Daralace D. Boles, who moved to London recently after living in Amsterdam for two years, wrote this for The New York Times.

2 Fairy Tales, Sweet and Lovely

By Suzy Menkes

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Two fashion fairy tales were sugar-spun in tulle and lace.

One was sweetness and light — a parade of pretty pink shoes and baby blue socks peeping out of a long tulle skirt.

The other had chiffon-weight mohair coats in sweet-and-sour colors against a decor of glowing Japanese lanterns in an enchanted forest.

And guess which was the work of Karl Lagerfeld and which of Rei Kawakubo? It was the Japanese designer who

Paris Fashion

lighted up the fall season with her magical parade of oobwheg light layers, felt coats with paint-splashed patterns and embroidered apron dresses in a show she described as "sweeter than sweet."

While Lagerfeld's Chloé show Thursday had more real clothes than in previous seasons, there was no clear focus. "Dream-like, a fairy tale — like a lantern-party in winter," said Lagerfeld, referring to the striking decor. The lantern theme was repeated in bold prints and in the rounded skirts.

Lagerfeld is no longer looking to the past for his romantic vision of Chloé. The opening mohair coats edged with satin over draped satin dresses were the luxe, light-handed cocktail clothes this line used to be about.

Then the collection dipped and dived, offering paneled-jackets à la Chanel, the metallic lurex Lagerfeld showed last week for Fendi and then the dimid shirts under brief jackets. Best were coats with caped-

shoulders, which seems to be a Paris trend.

But there was no clear fashion message in the lace knits, the lace dresses or even in the switch from sharp orange to dusty colors like pale mauve. And this fairy tale needed a better ending

than folklore embroideries in a sea of mohair.

With its unicorn-spoke hairstyles, crinoline skirts and cascading ruffles, Comme des Garçons was in Wonderland. Alice herself might have worn a lace embroidered pinafore over a



Chloé's featherweight mohair coat and draped dress.

gingham checked slip or the wool-lace knits with daisy-wheeled patterns.

But like all great fairy tales, the show had a disturbing undertone: cape jackets banding the shoulders like a straitjacket and often a shadow of something darker and heavier underneath the mist of tulle.

But that was Kawakubo's conception. She played the pretty colors, the embossed knits, the rose-petal neckline against severe and simple lines, as though she were abstracting symbols of prettiness. It was a strong statement about women yearning for prettiness — rather than a simple parade of clothes.

Yohji Yamamoto's hypnotic, somber show also suggested a hidden agenda. There were uncomfortable reminders of the Kobe earthquake as triste models walked through a blood-red velvet curtain in long dark coats, with open seams scarring the arms. Hefty coats in boiled wool were as fiery as molten lava or as black as charred coal.

You could read the submerged sexuality of the film "The Piano" in Victorian crinoline coats, cut away at the back or under the arms revealing the body.

WITHIN this inscrutable drama of dress, were tailored coats, curving jackets and slender knits. But should they have been so shrouded from the audience for the sake of spectacle? And coats with no backs seem a designer indulgence we have seen before.

Martin Margiela, the sober deconstructionist designer, sending out a witty show in a circus tent? And offering incisively cut coats, tailored jackets and a palette of coral and raspberry colors? Could this be for real?

Margiela's return to the runway after several still-life presentations had powerful, wearable clothes from the precise capes to the panne velvet skirts in shades of cyclamen-pink or raspberry sorbet.

There was just one gimmick: Each model had her head masked in a gauze scarf. It was a neat riposte to the supermodel takeover of the runways and it put the focus where it matters: on great clothes.

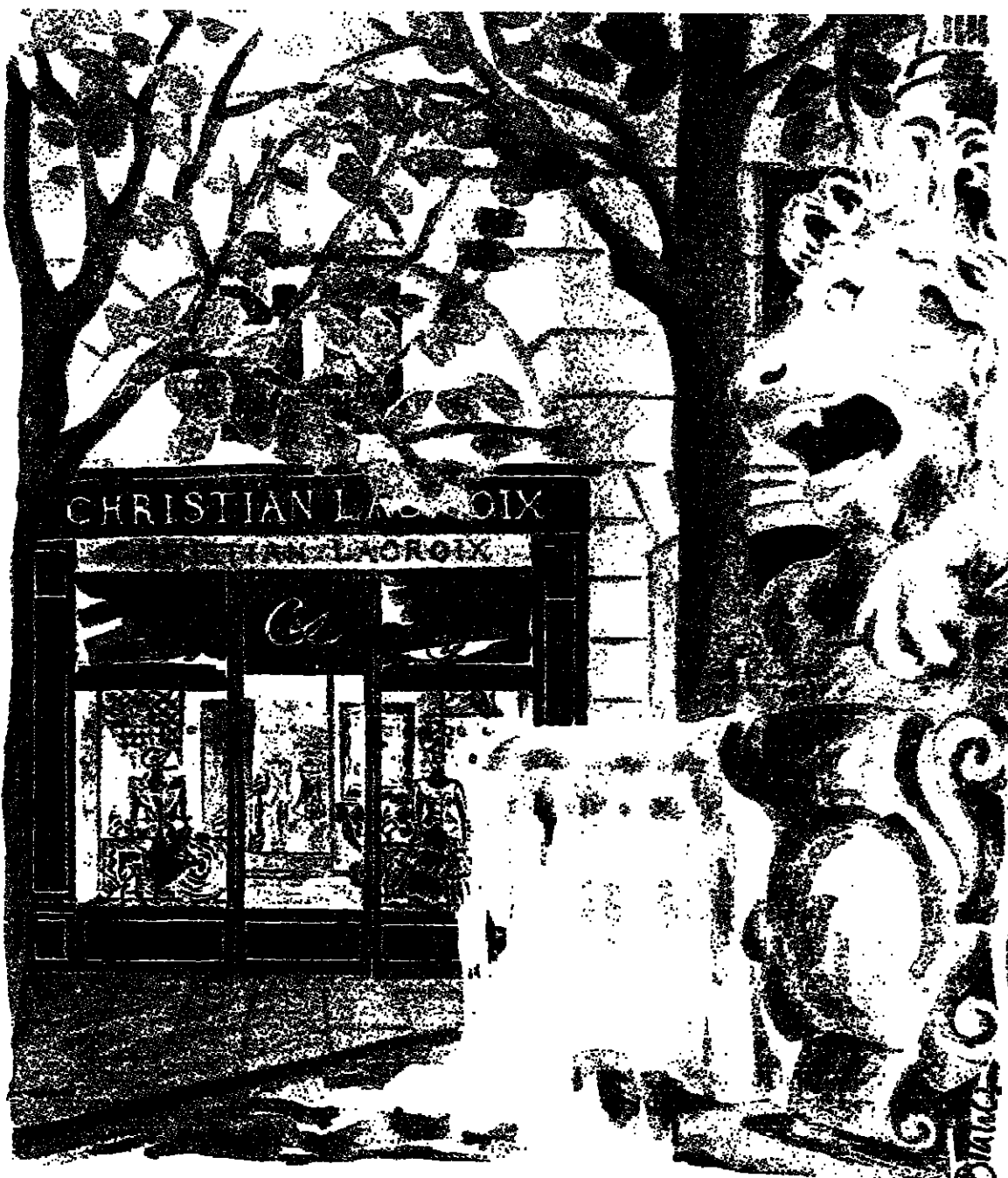
Rifat Ozbek was in cyberspace where cosmonauts in white suits meet Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. He mixed futuristic and hippie — quilted nylon jackets, printed velvet pants, grammy-flower prints on sleek satin jackets, neon sports shorts and black suits sprouting dark green cock feathers.

Chaos? Well, that is how clothes are worn on the club scene and the pieces will be sold separately. Ozbek also tempered the wild elements, so contrasting fake-fur sleeves were reduced to a mildly different texture for the sleeves of the jackets he cuts into lean, mean shapes.

Mariot Chanet offered a simple show, but the designer duo's mix of linear tailoring, fitted to the body and fluid asymmetric dresses in stretch chiffon, do not show up on the runway. Except when they offer a show-stopper: a dress bound at the hips that then slithered down to a train.

Retailers are divided over hyper-creative shows. Dawn Mello, president of Bergdorf Goodman, said she was "frustrated" by Yohji's and Comme's presentations, when she was looking for clothes to buy. But Joyce Ma from Asia said of Yohji: "Isn't that what creativity is supposed to be about?"

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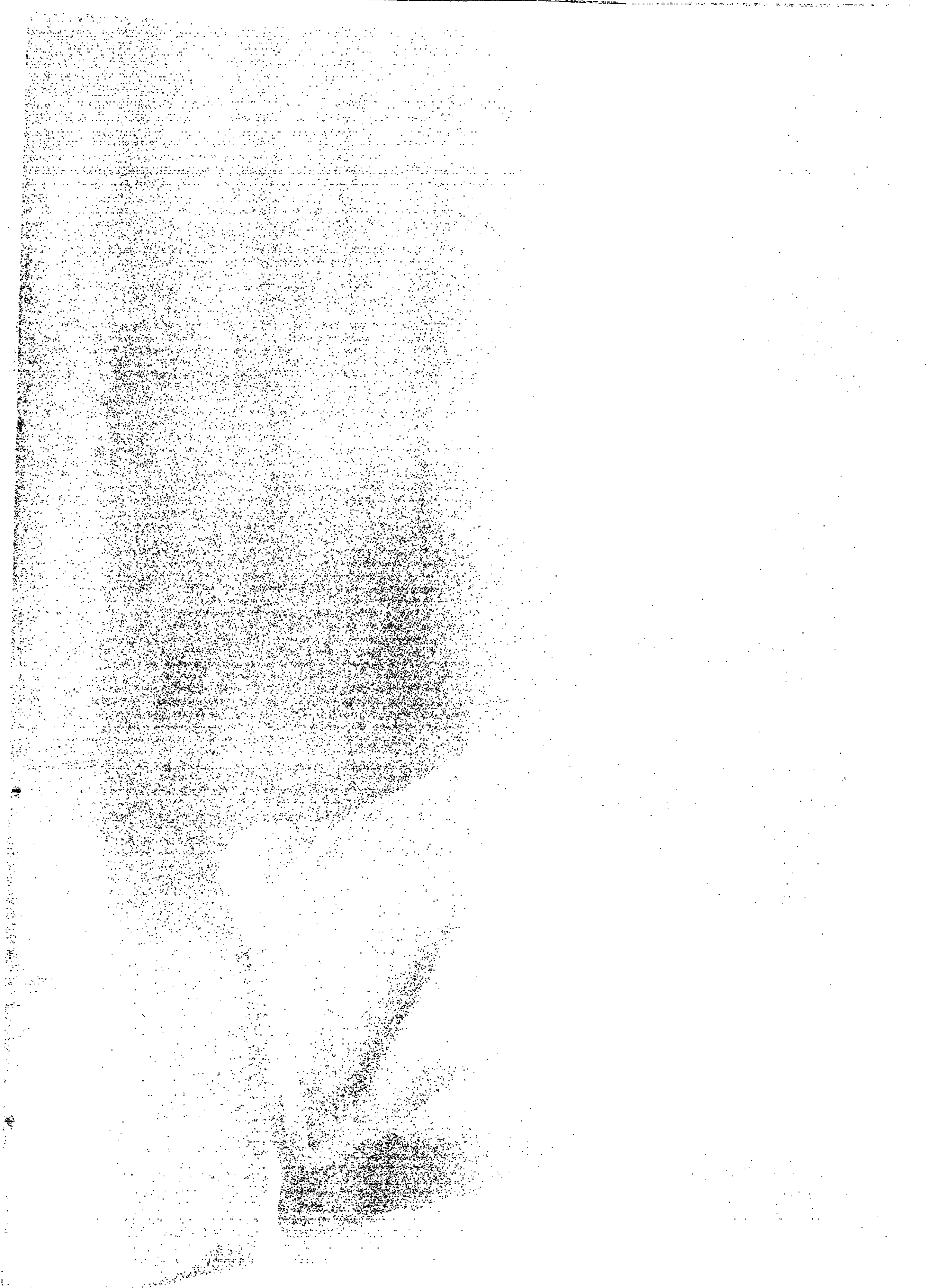
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PHOTO PATRICK DEMARCHELIER

1550

U.S. Passengers Rate the Airlines

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

American frequent travelers prefer foreign international airlines to their domestic counterparts and rate many single-carrier regional carriers higher than major domestic lines. They believe that the cost of flying has come down since 1990 but want to see improved comfort — wider, roomier seats, more legroom and better air circulation in the cabin.

These are some of the key findings of the 1995 Zagat Airline Survey of 46 U.S. and foreign carriers (to be published in April as part of Zagat's U.S. Hotels, Resorts & Spas Survey, \$19.50). The survey is based on a poll of 9,394 frequent travelers, including 667 travel industry professionals (travel agents, meeting planners, corporate travel managers) conducted last summer by Kuper Starch Worldwide Inc. Respondents are mainly middle- and upper-income professionals and business executives with an average household income of \$135,000 who have flown on six different airlines (four domestic and two international carriers) in the last two years.

Zagat is published by a husband and wife team — Tim and Nina Zagat — who brought out the first Zagat New York Restaurant Survey in 1979.

"Our main project was this hotel book — business lodgings in some 60 markets in the U.S. plus vacation resorts and spas," says Allan Ripp at Zagat in New York. "But the write-in comments on airlines were so voluminous, so opinionated, that we realized we'd tapped into a vein that had been ignored."

Zagat rates airlines on four criteria (comfort, service, timeliness and food) using a 30-point scale — 26-30: "Extraordinary to Perfection"; 20-25: "Very Good to Excellent"; 10-19: "Good to Very Good"; and 0-9: "Poor to Fair." The "Overall Rating" is the average of the individual ratings. And a "Bang for Buck" rating is given for each airline in relation to "perceived value." Airlines are ranked as "Domestic" (U.S. airlines flying domestic or international routes) and "International" (foreign airlines). Then both are ranked in a grand overall rating.

Which is pretty boring until you read the entries for each airline, laced with respondents' quotes. "We won't use a quote unless it's a solid reflection of a rating; we won't

just use a witty quote to bury an airline if it's not deserved," Ripp says. "We'll also use conflicting quotes to point out whether a review is mixed or uniform. Your question becomes very valid in the middle range, with American and Delta, where reviews may read a lot better than their ratings indicate. But look at Aeroflot on the one hand and the high ratings of Swissair, Japan Airlines, and Singapore Airlines — a high consensus of rave opinions."

Indeed, Singapore Airlines has the highest overall rating of 24.85 ("unequaled service," "solicitous attendants known for

The Frequent Traveler

greeting passengers by name," "should be giving lessons on how to run an airline") followed by Swissair — top-rated European carrier — with 23.9 ("not warm and cuddly" but "first choice" for trans-Atlantic travel with "outstanding food" though "rather expensive") and Cathay Pacific with 23.39 ("treats the royal treatment even in coach" with "good legroom").

International airlines took time of the top 10 overall ratings — four of the top seven being Asian carriers.

Highest rated among U.S. airlines is Midwest Express — a regional carrier based in Milwaukee — with a score of 23.8, ranking No. 4 overall ("Rolls-Royce of airlines"; "single-class cabins means everyone gets first-class treatment" at "economy prices"). Alaska Airlines (20.9), the next highest U.S. domestic carrier ("truly fun to fly" with "food you really want to eat"), ranking No. 13, is sandwiched between British Airways ("classy" though some find it "snooty" with "appalling food") and Air France ("Gallie charm with a bit of indifference").

Japan Airlines (22.96) at No. 5 ("ultimate in service and pampering" with a "marvelous business class" and "great noodles and vegetarian food") is followed by Qantas (22.41), which "makes a 15-hour trip to Sydney seem like fun." Virgin Atlantic (21.85) is "enjoyable" and "unique" along with a "rock 'n' roll party spirit" and "relatively cheap" while Lufthansa (21.49) is "on time and in control — the BMW of the air."

The major U.S. airlines don't show up until the middle of the pack. American (18.16) comes in at No. 19 ("good old standby," "treats frequent fliers well" but "declining service," "no legroom" and

food that "stinks"); Delta (18.10) ranks 20th ("business-like and efficient" but "nothing outstanding" although a "generous FFP" and "good scheduling"); followed by United (17.35) at 22 ("an old standby that does its job"); Northwest (16.37) at 29 ("on the upswing," "trying hard" with a "generous FFP") and TWA (16.31) at 30 (service "has picked up from awful to acceptable" and "vile food" but "occasionally offers great bargain fares" plus the "most perks" for frequent fliers).

Bringing up the rear are Air India (13.07) at 40 ("long delays" and "terrifying planes"), Olympic (13.02) at 42 ("a smoker's delight" and "even the gods have given up"); while Aeroflot (5.99) comes in last at 46 ("this is what they mean by a wing and a prayer," but at least the cabin attendants know how to "subdue raving drunks and repair seats").

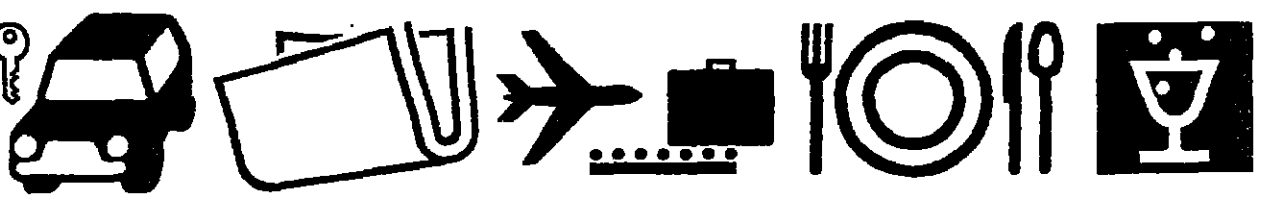
A PROBLEM with the survey is that choosing an airline involves far more complex criteria than deciding where to eat: which class you fly, whether you get an upgrade, FFP perks, how full the plane and what happens on the ground make a lot of difference to the way you view an airline. Airport hassle is the nightmare.

"Part of the nightmare. People didn't complain so much about airports," says Tim Zagat in New York. "What they really complained about was being in a cattle car, the physical side of being on a plane is what bothered people the most — primarily economy class and domestic U.S. travel. When we did this four years ago, the major complaint was delay, and price. And now it's comfort — overwhelmingly. Some airlines are doing better on that and it's showing in their ratings."

Small regional airlines with single-cabin service take six of the 10 top ratings among domestic carriers; with Midwest Express, Alaska Airlines and Kiwi International (flying between Newark, Florida and Puerto Rico) taking the top three places.

"Domestically, that's the interesting thing that comes out of the survey," Zagat says. "The Americans, the Deltas, the Uniteds, are still flying about the same kind of thing, doing it at lower prices and more efficiency, but achieved in part by squeezing more people into the plane. These small airlines are having a major impact, keeping the major domestic carriers under enormous pressure."

AT A GLANCE: GOOD TRAVEL DEALS



Carrier/Hotel	Location	Deal
AIR CANADA	Middle East/Eastern Europe	Double mileage for Aeroplan FFP members flying business class with Austrian Airlines from Vienna to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Until March 31.
AIR INDIA	London to Bombay/Delhi or New York	Two-for-one in full-fare first or business class; or pay full business fare and get automatic upgrade to first.
AIR NEW ZEALAND	New Zealand	Air pass for three to eight internal flights costs from \$290 to \$747. Must be bought before entering the country.
EL AL	United States to Israel	FFP members making two paid round-trips to Israel within 12 months earn an economy round-trip from Newark to London.
EVA AIR	London to Bangkok/Taipei	Two-for-one in first or business class when you pay full fare. Or an upgrade from full-fare business to first class. Subject to availability. For travel starting by April 8.
HILTON	Shanghai	Single or doubles for \$153 a night. Includes airport transfers and late check-out. Until March 31.
IBIS HOTEL DARLING	Sydney	Introductory rate of 100 Australian dollars (\$75) per night includes breakfast for two plus parking. Until March 31.
INTER-CONTINENTAL/DELTA AIR LINES	Worldwide	Members of Inter-Continental's Six Continents Club can claim a companion ticket when traveling first, business or full economy with Delta Air Lines between the United States and Europe or Asia. Until April 30.
JAPAN AIRLINES	Japan	JAL introduces APEX fares (purchased two months to 28 days before traveling) for discounts of 25 to 36 percent off normal domestic fares. APEX fares can be used on one-way flights. From May 9. Not available from Aug. 3 to 22.
HOTEL OKURA	Tokyo	Business Plan offers savings of around 20 percent; singles rate of 26,500 yen (\$290) excluding tax and service or an inclusive singles rate of 33,000 yen with taxes, service and Western or Japanese breakfast. Until Sept. 30.
THE MANILA HOTEL	Manila	Suites at 50 percent off published rates. Until Dec. 31.
MIDWEST EXPRESS	United States to Australia	Midwest FFP members can get an economy ticket with partner Air New Zealand to Sydney for 45,000 miles, and a companion ticket for 15,000 miles. For travel between April 1 and July 30.
SAS	Asia	SAS FFP members can now earn points with Qantas and Air New Zealand. Economy tickets earn one point per mile flown; first and business earn double mileage.
SHERATON	Hong Kong	"Tower" rooms for 2,000 Hong Kong dollars single and 2,200 double (\$260 and \$285) a night includes access to private lounge, breakfast, laundry and pressing. Until Aug. 31.
TWA	Britain to United States	Free upgrade when you pay full-fare business or economy class.
UNITED AIRLINES	Worldwide	Mileage Plus members using an American Express card earn double miles (1,000 per stay) at Radisson Hotels. Until April 14.

Although the IHT carefully checks these offers, please be forewarned that some travel agents may be unaware of them, or unable to book them.

THE ARTS GUIDE

- BELGIUM**
Brussels
Palais des Beaux-Arts, tel: (71) 30-15-07, closed Mondays, Contin-
ing/To May 21: "Flemmingh
Roma, 1508-1608: Artists from the
Low Countries and the Principality of
Liege in Rome during the Renaissance."
Features the work of the
Flemish artists who traveled to Italy in the
16th century.
- BRITAIN**
London
English National Opera, tel: (71) 336-3161. British premiere of Alfred
Schnitzler's "Life With an Idiot." Di-
rected by Jonathan Moore, conducted
by Richard Armstrong, with Alex-
ander Elliott, Louise Kennedy,
Richardson and Quentin Hayes. April
1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 20.
National Gallery, tel: (71) 839-
1785, open daily. Contin-
ing/To May 21: "Spanish Still Life: From Vel-
asquez to Goya." 70 still lifes painted
in Spain from 1748 to 1828.
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (71) 494-8815, open daily. Contin-
ing/To April 9: "Nicolas Poussin"
and to May 21: "Odilon Redon: Prince of Dreams."
- CANADA**
Montreal
Musée des Beaux-Arts, tel: (514) 225-1000, closed Mondays. To May
14: "Modigliani: Dessins de la Collec-
tion du Docteur Paul Alexandre."
More than 350 drawings created be-
tween 1906 and 1914 by Modigliani
were bought by his friend Dr. Paul
Alexandre. The exhibition will travel
to Madrid and Rouen, France.
- FRANCE**
Paris
Musée d'Orsay, tel: (1) 40-48-48
- 14, closed Mondays. Contin-
ing/To April 30: "Whistler, 1834-
1903."
- GERMANY**
Cologne
Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 2-21-23-72, closed Mondays.
Contin-
ing/To April 17: "Meister-
zeichnungen: Von Leonardo bis zu
Rodin." A selection of miniatures,
drawings and watercolors from the
graphic arts collection of the muse-
um, including works by Raphael, Do-
rer, Rembrandt, Ingres and others.
- IRELAND**
Dublin
Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of
Modern Art, tel: (1) 874-1903,
closed Mondays. To April 20: "Odra
Graciosa Contemporanea Anos 90."
Post-1950 Spanish prints by 39 arti-
sts, including works by Antoni Tapies,
Joan Miró, Carlos Franco and Mi-
quel Barceló.
- ISRAEL**
Jerusalem
Israel Museum, tel: (2) 708-811,
open daily. To May 15: "Home to
Kantner, 1894-1905." A collection of
80 works by the photographer.
- ITALY**
Venice
Gran Teatro La Fenice, tel: (41) 521-01-61. Bellini's "I Puritani." Di-
rected by Laura Orsman, conducted
by Bruno Appia, with Mariella Davis,
Stuart Neil, Giorgio Zancaro and
Carlo Colombari. March 18, 21, 23,
26 and 28.
- JAPAN**
Tokyo
Suntory Museum of Art, tel: (3) 3470-1073, closed Mondays. To
- April 9: "Posters of Women." More
than 100 20th-century posters docu-
ment changes in the depiction of
women in Japan and the West.
- NETHERLANDS**
The Hague
Het Paleis, tel: (70) 3381-111,
closed Mondays. Contin-
ing/To April 23: "Russische Avant-Garde
1900-1930." 40 paintings and 30
works by 40 artists, including Male-
vich, Chagall, Filonov and Rod-
chenko.
- POLAND**
Warsaw
National Museum, tel: (2) 621-10-
31, open daily. To May 14: "Weist
Sashes from Poland." More than 300
pieces from Polish workshops and
factories, as well as sketches produced
in Turkey and France for the Polish
nobility.
- PORTUGAL**
Lisbon
Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, tel:
348-5214. Portuguese "Tosca." Di-
rected by Paolo Tivoli, conducted
by Patrick Summers, with Annina
Tomowose-Sintow. March 19.
- SWITZERLAND**
Geneva
Musée Rath, (22) 310-52-70,
closed Mondays. To May 28: "Alexei
von Jawlensky, 1884-1951." This ex-
hibition brings together 50 paint-
ings, lithographs and drawings by the
Russian-born painter who was a
member of the Blaue Vier group. It
focuses on the artist's Swiss period.
The exhibition will travel to Potsdam,
Germany.
- Martigny
Fondation Pierre Gianadda, tel:
(26) 22-39-78, open daily. Contin-
- ing/To May 14: "Egon Schiele:
Hüles, Dessins et Aquarelles." Dedi-
cated to the work of the Expressionist
artist.
- UNITED STATES**
New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel:
(212) 570-3791, closed Mondays.
Contin-
ing/To May 14: "R. B. Kitaj:
A Retrospective." 100 works by the
American artist who lived and worked
in London for more than three de-
cades.
Metropolitan Opera, tel: (212) 362-
6000. A new production of Debussy's
"Pelléas et Mélisande." Conducted
by James Levine with Frederica von
Stade, Marilyn Horne and Dwayne
Croft. March 22 (premiere), 27, April
1, 4, 8 and 13.
Washington
National Museum of American Art,
tel: (202) 557-3095, open daily. To
August 20: "The Color of Abstrac-
tion." A showcase of the museum's
rich holdings of color-field paintings,
particularly by Washington-based
artists.

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1-800-367-7701/212-535-0100

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

[illegible]

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

[illegible]

1. The first step in the process of creating a new product is to identify a market need. This involves conducting extensive research and analysis to determine what consumers are looking for and what gaps exist in the current market.

2. Once a market need has been identified, the next step is to develop a concept or prototype. This stage often involves brainstorming sessions, sketching ideas, and building a basic model of the product to test its feasibility.

3. After developing a concept, it's time to conduct a detailed design phase. This includes specifying materials, dimensions, and manufacturing processes. It also involves creating technical drawings and specifications that will guide the production team.

4. The fourth step is to build a prototype. This allows you to see how your design translates into a physical form and helps identify any potential issues before full-scale production begins.

5. Testing and refinement follow. You'll want to evaluate the prototype against your initial goals and user requirements. Feedback from users can provide valuable insights into areas for improvement.

6. Finally, once everything is tested and refined, you're ready for mass production. This involves setting up a manufacturing process, sourcing materials, and distributing the finished products to the market.

7. Throughout the entire process, communication and collaboration are key. Working closely with designers, engineers, marketers, and manufacturers ensures that everyone is aligned and working towards the same goal.

8. Remember, creating a successful product isn't just about the final result; it's about the journey of innovation and problem-solving along the way.

9. Stay flexible and open to change. As you learn more about your audience and the challenges of production, you may find opportunities to improve or pivot your strategy.

10. Celebrate your successes! Launching a new product is a significant achievement, and taking time to acknowledge the hard work and creativity involved can boost morale and inspire future projects.

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[The page contains dense handwritten text in Devanagari script, which is mostly illegible due to extreme blurring and low resolution.]

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一、本會為維護會員權益，特訂定本章程，凡加入本會者，均須遵守。
 二、本會之宗旨，在於促進會員間之交流與合作，共同發展。
 三、本會之組織，由會員大會、理事會及監事會組成。
 四、本會之經費，由會員繳納會費及社會捐助。
 五、本會之活動，包括學術研討、文化講座及社會服務等。
 六、本會之榮譽，由理事會頒發。
 七、本會之修改，由會員大會通過。
 八、本會之解散，由會員大會決議。
 九、本會之附屬，由理事會決定。
 十、本會之其他事項，由會員大會決議。

[The page contains dense handwritten text in a cursive script, likely from a historical manuscript or ledger. The text is organized into several columns, separated by vertical lines. Due to the extreme resolution and blurriness of the image, the specific words and numbers are illegible.]

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in a column on the left, and the addresses are listed in a column on the right. The names are: John A. Smith, John B. Smith, John C. Smith, John D. Smith, John E. Smith, John F. Smith, John G. Smith, John H. Smith, John I. Smith, John J. Smith, John K. Smith, John L. Smith, John M. Smith, John N. Smith, John O. Smith, John P. Smith, John Q. Smith, John R. Smith, John S. Smith, John T. Smith, John U. Smith, John V. Smith, John W. Smith, John X. Smith, John Y. Smith, John Z. Smith. The addresses are: 123 Main St., 456 Main St., 789 Main St., 101 Main St., 202 Main St., 303 Main St., 404 Main St., 505 Main St., 606 Main St., 707 Main St., 808 Main St., 909 Main St., 1010 Main St., 1111 Main St., 1212 Main St., 1313 Main St., 1414 Main St., 1515 Main St., 1616 Main St., 1717 Main St., 1818 Main St., 1919 Main St., 2020 Main St., 2121 Main St., 2222 Main St., 2323 Main St., 2424 Main St., 2525 Main St., 2626 Main St., 2727 Main St., 2828 Main St., 2929 Main St., 3030 Main St., 3131 Main St., 3232 Main St., 3333 Main St., 3434 Main St., 3535 Main St., 3636 Main St., 3737 Main St., 3838 Main St., 3939 Main St., 4040 Main St., 4141 Main St., 4242 Main St., 4343 Main St., 4444 Main St., 4545 Main St., 4646 Main St., 4747 Main St., 4848 Main St., 4949 Main St., 5050 Main St., 5151 Main St., 5252 Main St., 5353 Main St., 5454 Main St., 5555 Main St., 5656 Main St., 5757 Main St., 5858 Main St., 5959 Main St., 6060 Main St., 6161 Main St., 6262 Main St., 6363 Main St., 6464 Main St., 6565 Main St., 6666 Main St., 6767 Main St., 6868 Main St., 6969 Main St., 7070 Main St., 7171 Main St., 7272 Main St., 7373 Main St., 7474 Main St., 7575 Main St., 7676 Main St., 7777 Main St., 7878 Main St., 7979 Main St., 8080 Main St., 8181 Main St., 8282 Main St., 8383 Main St., 8484 Main St., 8585 Main St., 8686 Main St., 8787 Main St., 8888 Main St., 8989 Main St., 9090 Main St., 9191 Main St., 9292 Main St., 9393 Main St., 9494 Main St., 9595 Main St., 9696 Main St., 9797 Main St., 9898 Main St., 9999 Main St.

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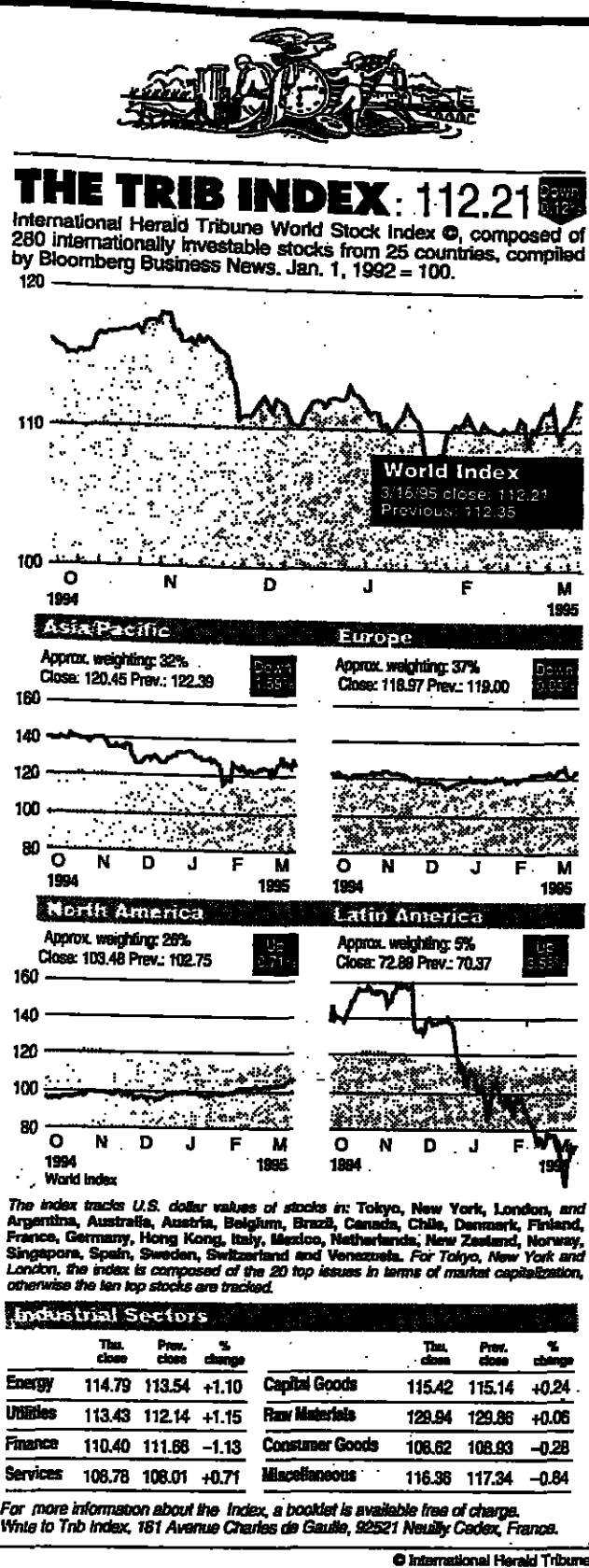
9. The ninth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

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1. 凡在本行開辦之各項業務，均應遵守本行所定之規章，並應隨時注意本行所發之各項通知，如有違反，本行得隨時停止其業務，並得取消其資格。
 2. 凡在本行開辦之各項業務，均應遵守本行所定之規章，並應隨時注意本行所發之各項通知，如有違反，本行得隨時停止其業務，並得取消其資格。
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Continued on Page 15

CURRENT



Mexico's Banks Struggle to Survive

By Tod Robberson
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — Three months of economic turmoil in Mexico have led to a banking crisis generated by soaring interest rates, billions of dollars in loan defaults and overextension of credit.

Financial analysts say the country is heading into a phase that will pinch its 18 banks from two sides: New customers will be scarce because of loan interest rates exceeding 80 percent a year, while bad debts of existing customers threaten to bring down the entire system. The government already has been forced to seize three mid-sized national banks.

The United States and world financial institutions have set stiff austerity measures — helping produce the skyrocketing interest rates — as part of conditions for loans to keep the country from defaulting on its debt. One of the reasons cited by U.S. officials for President Bill Clinton's swift action on loan guarantees was fear over the fragility of Mexico's banks.

President Ernesto Zedillo's government is making no attempt to tide the scope of the crisis. "There can be a very, very serious problem with the banks if this situation is not addressed immediately," warned Alejandro Valenzuela, a

spokesman for the Treasury Ministry.

The scene painted by the Mexican government, bankers and financial analysts is one of severe strain in a banking system that rode to seeming prosperity under President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's program of free-market economic reforms from 1988 through 1994. Mr. Salinas gradually privatized the banks after their seizure in 1982 during Mexico's last major economic crisis.

This crisis, officials and analysts say, is a direct result of high spending and loose-credit policies initiated by Mr. Salinas in hopes of stimulating economic growth. As Mr. Salinas promised his country higher-paying jobs and greater employment opportunities under the North American Free Trade Agreement, the banks responded by loosening credit for business, home and auto loans, while making credit cards easily available for purchases of U.S.-made consumer goods that were flooding into the country.

The result of such easy credit has been a massive round of spending — on borrowed money — that finally has shown up on Mexico's international balance. Mexico's dream of prosperity turned into a real-life nightmare when Mr. Zedillo, confronted with a mounting national debt and dwindling foreign currency reserves, devalued the peso on Dec. 20.

The peso has lost about half its value against the dollar since then. The dollar rose to 7,150 pesos on Thursday afternoon from 6,630 pesos at the New York close on Wednesday.

The conditions imposed by Mr. Zedillo to try to pull his country out of economic crisis will have the effect of squeezing the banking system even more. To halt inflation and restrict consumer spending, Mr. Zedillo last week authorized measures that will lead to consumer and commercial interest rates of no less than 65 percent, while averaging more realistically around 80 percent annually. Sliding interest rates on credit card debt now exceed 100 percent.

Already, five of the nation's biggest banks estimate that 10 percent of their outstanding loans are past due, while smaller banks are believed to suffer higher rates of nonperforming loans.

Two major banks — Banamex and Serfin — have announced staff cuts of 25 percent to 40 percent. Another bank is buying two 30,000-square-meter (25,000-square-foot) lots to hold thousands of automobiles it is repossessing for defaults on auto loans. Financial analysts warn that this is just the beginning, with far worse times looming in the weeks ahead.

Air France Shakes Up Its Class System

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Air France unveiled its recovery plan Wednesday, promising passengers more space, more comfort and Gallic flair in a bid to return to profitability by January 1997.

The airline's president, Christian Blanc, said the carrier would replace its first, old and economy classes with new concepts called Espace and Tempo.

Passengers in Espace class will get unprecedented amounts of leg and elbow room and a quiet, stress-free environment, including seats that fold out into beds on long-haul routes, Mr. Blanc said. Tempo passengers will get "a friendly atmosphere conducive to meeting people." The service will be introduced on short- and medium-haul flights in Europe this month and on long-haul flights in the autumn.

Despite a series of strikes at Air France's main domestic subsidiary, Air Inter, Mr. Blanc said he was not worried about the

possibility of labor disputes disrupting the new service. He said 6,000 cabin and ground staff had undergone intensive training before the launch, and were fiercely proud of the new product.

Mr. Blanc said he was, too. He said it was the first time since taking over the company that he felt like a normal executive showing off a proper business plan. He became president in the autumn of 1993 after a series of violent strikes forced the government to back away from imposing an austerity package.

Mr. Blanc's own recovery plan calling for job cuts, productivity increases and a wage freeze was approved in a referendum by the airline's 42,000 employees last April.

The European Commission later approved a 20 billion franc (\$4 billion) bailout package for Air France by the French government, which hopes to return the carrier to profitability and sell it to the private sector. The aid is being challenged in the European Court by the British gov-

ernment and several rival airlines, including British Airways.

Air France has not turned a profit since 1989 and will post a loss of 2.7 billion francs for 1994, Mr. Blanc said. That compares with a loss of 7.5 billion francs for 1993. Mr. Blanc conceded that the airline is not yet out of the woods, but he said it was headed in the right direction.

The airline is spending about 650 million francs on equipping its aircraft with new seats and cabin trim, which Mr. Blanc said should pay for itself within one to two years.

The company said it was not raising fares. It will attempt to increase revenue, however, with a computerized yield-management system it bought from American Airlines. The Espace Fare will correspond to the present full economy fare, while Tempo fares will cover a range of promotional offers. The airline also will introduce a service called Tempo Challenge that will allow travelers to use ground

See STRATEGY, Page 14

ABB to Merge Its Rail Unit With Daimler's

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Daimler-Benz AG and ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd. announced plans Thursday to merge their rail operations, creating what they called the world's biggest rail-transportation company.

Ownership of the venture, which would intensify competition for major rail projects worldwide, is to be split evenly between the German and Swiss-Swedish companies. The company, to be called ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation, would manage about 50 companies with 22,000 employees in 40 countries. Its order inflow for 1995 is estimated at 8 billion Deutsche marks (\$5.7 billion).

The venture, to be based in Berlin, requires European regulatory approval.

"The joint company, by combining the strengths of both groups — Daimler-Benz in transportation systems and mechanical engineering and ABB in electrical engineering — will be one of the leaders in the global rail transportation market," Daimler-Benz said. It estimated the new company would hold between 11 percent and 12 percent of the market.

"Both partners expect the joint venture to achieve a level of profitability not possible separately," Daimler added.

Daimler is to pay ABB \$900 million to compensate for the fact that its AEG Bahnsysteme GmbH unit is smaller and less profitable than ABB's rail operation. The AEG unit had 1.5 billion DM in sales in 1993, the last full year for which figures are available, but it had a loss of 923 million DM.

ABB's rail operations, which had sales of \$2.92 billion in 1994, made a profit of \$140 million after write-offs.

Both Daimler and ABB said the joint venture would be profitable from its start.

Edvard Reuter, chairman of Daimler-Benz, predicted the venture would have an annual turnover of 10 billion DM by the end of the decade.

Neither Daimler nor ABB made any explicit remarks about job cuts, but Mr. Reuter said both companies had a history of making "socially acceptable cutbacks." Industry sources said a "certain restructuring" would be inevitable.

Analysts said the merger made sense for both AEG and ABB and would put pressure on their competitors, primarily Siemens AG and GEC Alsthom.

"Short-term, it's an expensive way for Daimler to get out of the mess it's in," said Adrian Brunet, an automotive and electrical sector analyst at Bank in Liechtenstein, referring to AEG's losses. "But long-term they'll be the premier company in the business together with ABB."

Daimler-Benz owns about 80 percent of AEG AG, the parent company of the rail unit. AEG's shares finished a 138 DM Thursday, down 1, while ABB stock in Stockholm closed at 387 kronor (\$81), up 5. Daimler's stock fell 15 DM, to 633.50.

Two years ago, AEG and Siemens backed away from a planned merger of their rail activities after German cartel authorities expressed reservations.

Kaare Wagner, who heads ABB's transportation division and will be the president and chief operating officer of the new venture, said it planned to build on growing demand for rail operations worldwide.

Ernst Georg Stöckl, the chairman of AEG, is to become head of the supervisory board of the joint venture.

WALL STREET WATCH

SEC Tackles the On-Line Come-On

By Susan Antilla
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The slick pitches that dotted the classified ads of America's online promised, "You can't lose." For \$189 a share, investors could get in on the ground floor of an operation that would yield them a minimum of \$60 a week. It was, as the cyberspace ads crowded, "an amazing company."

In cyberspace land, is there any other kind?

It all sounded terrific to more than 20,000 investors, but the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission sued Telephone Information Systems and affiliated companies this week, saying that their come-ons in the computer-network realm known as cyberspace for an "American Indian Lottery" were unregistered securities amounting to little more than high-tech pyramid schemes.

Defendants, including Pleasure Time Inc., which also does business under the name Telephone Information Systems, and Group Dynamics Downline wooed investors by promising increasing profits in return for signing on over more investors. Such "multilevel marketing" with no underlying product amounted to a "pyramid scheme," the complaint said.

"It's the first time the commission has brought a case in which most of the offer and sale of securities took place in cyberspace," said Stanley B. Whitten, supervi-

sory investigator in the SEC's Chicago office.

Prospective investors were told that by buying a "membership" share in Telephone Information, they would profit from a worldwide telephone lottery that would be set up in conjunction with a national telephone lottery. The complaint said that no tribe ever agreed to work on the project.

But, as described to investors, members of the public would eventually call a

"It's the first time the commission has brought a case in which most of the offer and sale of securities took place in cyberspace."

Stanley B. Whitten, an SEC investigator.

premium-priced telephone number to take part in a lottery, which would yield increasing returns to investors underwriting the project. Half the \$700 telephone wage would go into the lottery pot, as the complaint described the ad, and the other \$3.50 would be divided among the tribe, the investors and operating expenses.

Mark Maddox, a lawyer for John C. Hicks of Princeton, Indiana, who was a

lawyer for Telephone Information and named in the complaint, called the charges against his client "groundless," and said they reflected "an incomplete investigation" by the SEC.

Only Mr. Hicks has been served with the lawsuit so far, said Robert Berson, assistant regional director of the SEC's Chicago office. "We're trying to locate the others," he said. No other defendant could be reached in the cities listed in the complaint.

Joan McKown, chief counsel for the SEC's enforcement division in Washington, said the SEC's market surveillance department now monitors the financial bulletin boards of on-line services. She added that while other cases had been brought in which on-line services were used to tout financial products, this was the first she knew of where most of the advertising for a scam was in cyberspace.

The SEC so far has determined that more than \$3 million flowed in from investors as Telephone Information and Group Dynamics Downline made pitches on computer networks.

Most recently, the operators have been selling the lottery idea in Europe, where 5,500 investors have signed on at \$200 each since February.

But not all the principals' operations were smoke and mirrors, the agency said. Pleasure Time at one point had the redeeming feature of offering a real service, providing "fantasy calls" to those who phoned a premium-priced number.

EU Keeps Funds Under Wraps

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — A proposal to significantly increase the marketing of investment funds across the European Union has been rejected by member states who feared a loss of regulatory and monetary control, EU officials said Thursday.

The proposal would have extended a EU directive dating from 1985 that allowed cross-border marketing of equity and bond funds to include money-market funds, cash funds and feeder funds. It also would have permitted funds to choose foreign depositaries, allowing a French mutual fund to deposit its assets with a British trustee, for example.

The package "would make it easier" to sell funds throughout the 15-state Union, said Steffen Matthias, secretary-general of the European Federation of In-

vestment Funds and Companies. Money-market funds account for a third of the 1.04 billion European currency units (\$1.36 billion) of EU fund assets at the end of 1993, with equity and bond funds making up most of the rest, according to federation figures.

But the proposal's complexity proved its undoing.

France and Spain opposed cash funds, which invest in bank deposits, fearing that they might interfere with money-supply control, officials said.

Many states were wary of feeder funds, which are essentially a marketing tool that allows managers to channel money from different types of investors or from investors in different countries into a single master fund. "We will be very disappointed if that gets lost," said Sheila Nicolli, director of legal affairs at the Unit Trust Association in London.

Europe Stocks Shoot Upward

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — The London and French stock markets surged Thursday, with the Paris bourse's leading index up 2.7 percent and the principle London index logging its biggest one-day gain in five months.

The CAC-40 Index in Paris was up 47.16 points, to 1,785.76, led by Alcatel Alsthom after the telecommunications company's chairman defended himself on television against corruption allegations.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 Index rose 47.1 points, to a four-week high of 3,094.1.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates										March 16	
	£	DM	FF	Lira	Yen	S.P.	Yen	CS	Peso		
Australia	1.62	2.07	1.29	2.34	1.97	1.00	1.38	1.00	1.25		
Belgium	26.4	36.8	22.8	2.88	2.22	1.00	24.92	1.00	24.9		
Canada	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
France	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Germany	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Italy	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Japan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Netherlands	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Spain	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Sweden	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Switzerland	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Taiwan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
UK	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
US	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Other Dollar Values											
	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$		
Australia	1.62	2.07	1.29	2.34	1.97	1.00	1.38	1.00	1.25		
Canada	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
France	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Germany	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Italy	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Japan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Netherlands	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Spain	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Sweden	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Switzerland	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Taiwan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
UK	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
US	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Forward Rates											
	30-day	60-day	90-day	180-day	360-day	1-year	2-year	3-year	5-year		
Australia	1.62	2.07	1.29	2.34	1.97	1.00	1.38	1.00	1.25		
Canada	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
France	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Germany	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Italy	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Japan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Netherlands	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Spain	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Sweden	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Switzerland	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Taiwan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
UK	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
US	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Interest Rates											
	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month	60-month		
Australia	1.62	2.07	1.29	2.34	1.97	1.00	1.38	1.00	1.25		
Canada	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
France	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Germany	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Italy	1.36	2.25	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Japan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Netherlands	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Spain	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Sweden	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Switzerland	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
Taiwan	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
UK	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		
US	1.66	1.93	1.36	1.88	1.57	1.00	21.5	1.00	21.5		

MARKET DIARY

Blue-Chips Score Record After Data

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — Blue-chip stocks scored a record high after government data indicated the U.S. economy was slowing in a way that would allow corporate earnings to grow while interest rates fell.

A drop in housing starts, a moderate increase in consumer prices and a regional index showing a drop in prices paid by manufacturers combined to en-

U.S. Stocks

courage investors, analysts said. "You're getting a picture of an economy that is slowing, but still brisk, while inflation rises a modest amount but is far from out of control," said John Shaughnessy, director of research at Advent in Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderate economic expansion, low inflation and stable or falling interest rates mean corporate earnings and dividends will continue to grow, Mr. Shaughnessy said.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 30,780 points, at 4,069.15, a record, while gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 12-to-7 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The price of the 30-year Treasury bond slipped 4/32 point, to 103 1/32, taking the yield up to 7.37 percent from 7.36 percent Wednesday. Bond prices were higher for most of the session,

but slipped late in the day as investors reassessed the potential for inflation to erode the value of fixed-income securities.

Telefónica de México's American depositary receipts were the most actively traded U.S. issue, slipping 1/4 to 26 in step with losses in the Mexican stock market and the peso.

Drug stocks were lifted by a study that showed drug prices have risen faster than the rate of inflation. Merck rose 1/2 to 43 1/2.

Technology stocks were strong, with International Business Machines rising 1 1/4 to 83 1/4 after it said it would ship personal computers with its new OS/2 Warp operating system already installed. Compaq Computer rose 1/2 to 32 1/2.

Grand Casinos jumped 3/4 to 18 1/4 after it said its first-quarter net earnings would be about double analysts' expectations because of strong revenue at its Coushatta casino in Louisiana and good market share in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Paper stocks were lower after Merrill Lynch downgraded its recommendation to above average from buy on nine of them. Weyerhaeuser fell 1/4 to 37 1/4 and Stone Container fell 1/4 to 19 1/4.

RJR Nabisco fell 1/4 to 5 1/4. Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts sold its remaining 8 percent stake in RJR to its Borden subsidiary, which is expected to sell the shares on the open market.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Via Associated Press March 16

The Dow

Daily closings of the Dow Jones industrial average

4000

3000

2000

1000

0

1994

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1996

1997

1998

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Dow Jones Averages

Open High Low Close

Indust. 30780.15 30780.15 30780.15 30780.15

Comp. 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Transp. 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Util. 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Health 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Pharm. 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Chem. 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Metals 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Energy 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Telecom 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Media 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Food 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Textiles 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Automotive 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Defense 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Government 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Foreign 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

International 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Global 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

World 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Asia 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Europe 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Africa 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Oceania 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

South America 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Central America 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Caribbean 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

South Asia 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

East Asia 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

Southeast Asia 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

South Pacific 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

East Pacific 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00 10000.00

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EUROPE

Climbing Yen
Speeds Toyota's
Overseas Push

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp. will double its production in Britain by building a second auto factory there, the company said Wednesday, alleviating the impact of the strong yen on its profits.

Japan's largest automaker said it would spend £200 million (\$320 million) on the new plant, which will be built adjacent to an existing plant at Burnaston in Derbyshire.

The new plant will create about 1,000 jobs and should begin producing a Corolla model in the autumn of 1996, along with the Camry E series currently being produced at the old Burnaston plant.

Alan Marsh, vice chairman of Toyota Motor Europe, said the Corolla produced at the new factory would be redesigned to "reflect European tastes and European requirements." Toyota has been exporting a variant of the Corolla to Europe for 30 years.

Like many of Japan's exporters, Toyota faces the prospect of the strong yen cutting into profit. Toyota sells about 35 percent of its output outside Japan, and a strong yen erodes overseas revenue when it is repatriated.

The yen has risen more than 10 percent against the dollar this year.

"One of the major problems facing all Japanese producers is the appreciation of the yen," Mr. Marsh said. "My guess would be that these cars will be more efficiently produced and less expensive as a result of being made in Europe."

By increasing local production, Toyota reduces its dependence on exports and its exposure to the risk of falling income because of exchange-rate fluctuations.

(Bloomberg, AFP, AP)

Suzuki Abandons Santana
Suzuki Motor Corp. said Thursday it had agreed to hand over its 83.75 percent share in the Spanish automaker Santana Motor SA to the regional government of Andalusia, the Associated Press reported from Tokyo.

Suzuki's decision to relinquish the Santana stake came after a prolonged struggle to turn around the troubled Spanish subsidiary. Saddled by high labor costs and sluggish auto sales in Europe, Santana had posted accumulated losses of 21.00 billion pesetas (\$163 million) between 1991 and 1993 and filed a suspension of payments to creditors in February last year.

A Conservative Aggressor
ING's Barings Deal Is Big but SensibleBy Richard W. Stevenson
New York Times Service

LONDON — It was audacious but not out of character for Internationale Nederlanden Groep NV of the Netherlands to plunk down more than \$1 billion earlier this month for the corporate remains of Barings PLC, the bankrupt British banking company.

ING has proven aggressive and willing to take risks as it has grown into one of Europe's largest banking and insurance companies and become one of the quickest to expand into emerging markets in Asia and Latin America.

Indeed, the biggest question mark hanging over ING may not be Barings at all, but the effects of the Mexican peso crisis on its emerging-market bond trading business and its other Third World operations.

ING was hit hard in the first half of last year by plunging values in its Latin American debt portfolio. Prices bounced back in the third quarter of 1994, helping to restore its trading operation to profitability. But analysts have said that the economic turmoil in Mexico, which broke out at the very end of last year and spread to other emerging financial markets as well, is likely to have some negative effect on full-year 1994 earnings and to put a crimp on 1995 results.

ING executives recently said they were sticking by their prediction that full-year 1994 results would exceed 1993 earnings of 8.04 Dutch guilders (\$5.15) per share, but they would not be more specific.

Investors are clearly wary, however, of stocks with heavy exposure to Latin America. Shares in Bankers Trust New York Corp. plunged 16 percent on Monday, following the company's disclosure three days before that it expected to lose \$125 million in the first quarter due partially to problems with its Latin American securities portfolio.

"ING deserves a better rating than it's got," said Tom Gietman, an analyst at James Capel

& Co. in Amsterdam. "Unfortunately, recent news items do not really help the stock."

But despite Latin American exposure and lingering questions about the Barings deal, many analysts say that ING, whose profits have typically been split pretty evenly between its banking and insurance units, remains an attractive long-term investment.

"It's generally a very conservatively run company which happens to be relatively aggressive on its banking side," said Robin Mitra, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. in London. "It goes into areas where other people are exiting. It's made a lot of money in

Spending more than \$1 billion to purchase and recapitalize Barings hardly put any strain on ING.

emerging markets and I have every expectation that it will continue to do so."

It is a measure of ING's size that it could manage the Barings acquisition without outside financing. Indeed, spending more than \$1 billion to purchase and recapitalize Barings' corporate finance, asset management and securities businesses hardly put any strain at all on ING, which had \$2.5 billion in cash available for acquisitions and expansion. The Barings acquisition also fits neatly into its strategy of expanding in asset management, corporate finance and securities. Barings' focus on emerging-market trading meshes perfectly with its own, especially since ING's strength is in debt trading and Barings' primarily in stocks.

The price ING paid for Barings was "fair to slightly full," said Mr. Mitra of Merrill Lynch. "Having said that, they couldn't have gotten these businesses any cheaper," Mr. Mitra said.

Hoogovens
Returns
To Profit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEVERWIJK, Netherlands — Hoogovens NV reported better-than-expected 1994 earnings on Thursday as rising demand, increased selling prices and reduced costs propelled income at its steel and aluminum divisions.

The Netherlands' only steelmaker, which reported losses for three consecutive years, said that net earnings last year rose to 354 million guilders (\$226.3 million), compared with a loss of 234 million guilders in 1993 and 593 million guilders in 1992.

Hoogovens said it would resume its dividends with a payment of 2 guilders per share. It last paid a dividend in 1991.

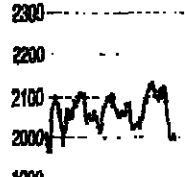
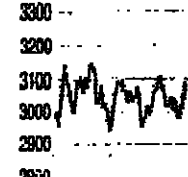
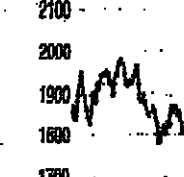
Hoogovens shares initially traded higher on the news, but ended Thursday with a decline as investors cashed in on three days of rising prices. At the end of the Amsterdam session, the stock was down 1 guilder, at 69.30, but up from its close of 65.70 at the end of last week.

Operating income, excluding financial costs, rose more than 14 times, to 597 million guilders from the 41 million a year earlier. Sales rose 10 percent, to 7.93 billion guilders.

The steel division posted a 1994 profit of 438 million guilders, up from a profit of 5 million the year before.

The aluminum division had a 1994 net loss of 35 million guilders, narrowed from a loss the year earlier of 265 million guilders.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe				
Frankfurt DAX		London FTSE 100 Index		Paris CAC 40
				
O N D J F M 1994 1995		O N D J F M 1994 1995		O N D J F M 1994 1995
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	393.03	394.71	-0.43
Brussels	Stock Index	6,861.29	6,910.64	-0.42
Frankfurt	DAX	1,992.06	2,010.14	-0.90
Frankfurt	FAZ	747.41	749.71	-0.31
Helsinki	HEX	1,671.44	1,696.19	-1.46
London	Financial Times 30	2,371.40	2,337.80	+1.44
London	FTSE 100	3,094.10	3,047.00	+1.56
Madrid	General Index	266.58	270.87	-1.55
Milan	MIBTEL	9,658.00	9,506.00	+1.58
Paris	CAC 40	1,785.76	1,738.60	+2.71
Stockholm	SX 16	1,545.46	1,550.97	-0.36
Vienna	ATX Index	969.50	980.25	-0.04
Zurich	SBS	882.00	877.91	+0.47

Thursday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

[illegible]

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110	112	114	116	118	120	122	124	126	128	130	132	134	136	138	140	142	144	146	148	150	152	154	156	158	160	162	164	166	168	170	172	174	176	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192	194	196	198	200
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4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	140	144	148	152	156	160	164	168	172	176	180	184	188	192	196	200	204	208	212	216	220	224	228	232	236	240	244	248	252	256	260	264	268	272	276	280	284	288	292	296	300																									
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	150	155	160	165	170	175	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	2																																									

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Cherry Farm
to Open J
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SOLICITATION ANNO

SOLICITATION NO. 1008

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WITH PROTECTANT AND
REFERENCE TO THE LIVER
PERFORMANCE ALL THE BEST

In this Satur

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Dairy Farm To Open Japan Food Stores

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd. said Thursday that it would enter the Japanese supermarket business in a joint venture with Seiyu Co.

The \$100 million joint venture, to be called DFI Seiyu Ltd., will be 60 percent held by the Hong Kong-based food company and 40 percent by Seiyu.

The companies plan to develop a chain of 70 discount food stores over the next five years.

"The Japanese market represents a significant opportunity for Dairy Farm," Managing Director Graeme Seabrook said.

"We view this as a long-term investment and potentially the largest and most exciting business opportunity for Dairy Farm in the Pacific Rim."

Dairy Farm prepares, distributes and sells food, and Seiyu owns Japan's fourth-largest supermarket chain. They hope to cash in on a new price consciousness among Japanese consumers.

"Japan is moving away from the expensive, 'yuppie' markets and into plain old cheap," said Kent Chan, an analyst at Salomon Brothers Inc. in Hong Kong. "Dairy Farm needs some other source of earnings growth, and this is a step in the right direction."

The Hong Kong company, whose parent is Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd., part of the

Jardine Matheson group of companies, will invest \$21 million cash in the venture. Seiyu will contribute \$14 million, and the remaining \$65 million is to be borrowed from banks.

"The recent difficult economic climate in Japan has created growing consumer demand for value," the chief executive of Dairy Farm, Chris Nelson, said.

Dairy Farm said it did not expect start-up losses from the venture to have a significant effect on the company's overall results.

Dairy Farm is the largest food retailer in Asia outside of Japan. The joint venture not only gives it access to that market, but it also parties investors who had questioned its sagging short-term growth prospects.

The company owns fast-food and convenience store chains in Hong Kong and various kinds of retail food stores throughout southern China, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia. It has been examining expansion in Thailand and Indonesia.

Mr. Seabrook has urged that investors consider the company's long-term prospects, and the Japanese venture should help his argument. Dairy Farm's earnings base currently depends heavily on mature markets where competition is increasingly fierce.

(AFX, Bloomberg)

APEC's Crisis of (No) Consensus

Lack of Leadership Is Jeopardizing Free-Trade Plans

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SYDNEY — Barely four months after Asian and Pacific leaders endorsed a plan for free and open trade in the region by 2020, their officials are having difficulty reaching consensus on how to liberalize import barriers and whether to extend the benefits to the European Union without demanding reciprocal concessions.

Recently, Western and Asian officials have warned that the credibility of APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, would be impaired if the group failed to agree on a detailed blueprint for trade liberalization in time for its annual meeting in Japan in November.

The officials are concerned that Japan — preoccupied with its own pressing political and economic problems and unwilling to risk offending APEC members that hold divergent views — will fail to show the strong leadership needed to advance regional deregulation.

Tokyo is anxious to play a bridging role between those APEC members such as Australia, the United States and Canada that want to set a firm timetable for deregulation and those members such as China, Malaysia and Thailand that want a flexible approach so they will not be forced to make politically sensitive tariff cuts before their industries are ready to face foreign competition.

"It will be crucial for APEC's future that the bold commitment APEC leaders made in Bogor is followed up with meaningful steps and some tangible outcomes," said Gareth Evans, Australia's foreign minister. "To achieve this, we need real leadership to drive the process forward."

APEC leaders, whose economies account for half of world output, signed a declaration in Bogor, Indonesia, in November to remove barriers to trade and investment by 2020 in order to speed up

regional growth and hasten global liberalization.

The Bogor accord did not, however, define how the goal of free-and-open trade was to be achieved. Nor was there agreement on whether cuts in tariffs and other import barriers should be extended to nonmember nations.

APEC members include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea,

The group's broad accord last year now requires a program to enact it.

the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. Analysts said that, following talks among APEC officials in Fukuoka, Japan, last month that showed substantial divergences among members, a second meeting in Singapore next month would be critical in trying to get the group on an agreed track.

A U.S. official said the Singapore meeting would have to start focusing on a program to flesh out the broad political agreement reached in Bogor.

In Sydney earlier this week, Roy MacLaren, Canada's minister for international trade, said APEC should not extend free-trade benefits to third parties unless they made reciprocal concessions.

He said he doubted that the either the United States or Japan would wish to offer "a free ride to the Europeans."

Bob McMullan, Australia's trade minister, said the preferred approach of the Australian government was to extend the benefits of trade-and-investment liberalization within APEC to all countries without discrimination.

But he said that a number of APEC members wanted to use the combined strength of the group as leverage to get other trade blocs to liberalize, and that Australia would be prepared to consider such an option.

"There is also a growing body of expert opinion that preferential trade agreements can have wider positive effect," Mr. McMullan said.

Goh Chok Tong, Singapore's prime minister, told an international business conference in Singapore last week that APEC had not decided whether to make its tariff cuts preferential or extend them to nonmembers on a unilateral basis. Either way, he argued, open regionalism would work in favor of lower trade barriers globally.

However, Mr. Goh said that the key would be the pace of liberalization adopted by APEC.

"The faster the implementation of APEC members' commitments under the Uruguay Round, and the further that they take their targets for liberalization beyond the Uruguay Round agreements," he said, "the greater will be the incentive for other regions to do the same." He was referring to the trade talks begun in Uruguay and finished last year under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Bogor declaration did not say whether the target dates set for achieving free and open trade in APEC were binding. It said developed economies were to achieve this objective by 2010 and all other members by 2020.

Sandra Kristoff, the coordinator for APEC at the U.S. State Department, said the group was at a crossroads and suffering from "a little bit of trade fatigue" following the conclusion of multi-lateral trade negotiations under the Uruguay Round.

Investor's Asia

Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1994	8,347.75	8,365.21	-0.21
Singapore Straits Times	1995	2,075.82	2,078.52	-0.08
Sydney All Ordinaries	1994	1,908.90	1,904.30	+0.24
Tokyo Nikkei 225	1994	16,355.38	16,686.83	-1.97
Kuala Lumpur Composite	1994	943.88	937.32	+0.70
Bangkok SET	1994	1,135.69	1,152.34	-1.44
Seoul Composite Stock	1994	954.18	953.71	+0.05
Taipei Weighted Price	1994	8,564.66	8,555.18	+0.14
Manila PSE	1994	2,297.30	2,286.37	+1.36
Jakarta Stock Index	1994	427.20	428.67	-0.34
New Zealand NZSE-40	1994	1,974.72	1,963.35	+1.09
Bombay National Index	1994	1,641.35	1,655.81	-0.87

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- India's economy is expected to grow between 5.5 percent and 6.0 percent in the fiscal year to March 1996, with industrial growth exceeding 10 percent, the Finance Ministry predicted.
- India plans to accelerate its privatization program in the next year. The government projected a 33 percent rise in receipts from divestment.
- Doksan Business Group is being investigated by South Korean prosecutors on suspicion of staging its bankruptcy to hide misappropriated funds.
- South Korean auto exports in the first two months of 1995 surged by 62 percent from the year-ago figure, the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association said.
- Bank of China's Shanghai branch posted a profit of 1.71 billion yuan (\$203 million) last year, up 106 percent from 1993, helped by an increase in business from overseas, the Liberation Daily newspaper reported.
- Eastern Airlines of China has ordered five new passenger planes from Airbus Industrie, the Xinhua news agency reported; it did not put a value on the deal.
- China will not open a third stock exchange this year because the government is focusing its efforts on controlling inflation, the director of the China Securities Regulatory Commission said.
- New Zealand's central bank will not ease interest rates in the near term because of the risk of inflation, its governor said.
- The Philippine banking sector will have a tough time with liberalization and modernization because of its dependence on foreign capital, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said.
- Japan's industrial production in January fell a revised 1.5 percent from the previous month, up from a preliminary 1.4 percent drop. January production was up 4.8 percent from a year earlier.
- Matsumita Electric Industrial Co. said Thursday it would market a new broadcast digital video system starting late this year using 6.35 millimeter (0.254 inch) wide compact tape.
- Japan Ship Exporters Association said export ship-building orders in February rose 237 percent from a year earlier, to 852,800 gross tons.

Reuters, AFP, AP

In Blow to Murdoch, Satellite Launch Postponed for 2d Time

Bloomberg Business News

HONG KONG — In a blow to Rupert Murdoch's STAR-TV network, AsiaSatellite Telecommunications Co. said Thursday that the launch of its AsiaSat 2 satellite had been postponed for a second time, to August at the earliest.

STAR-TV, the regional satellite broadcaster controlled by Mr. Murdoch's News Corp., intends to transmit as many as 32 channels of digital television from AsiaSat 2 in addition to the seven analogue channels it now broadcasts from AsiaSat 1.

Many of the agreements it has signed, such as a deal announced this week to provide a package of 15 channels to pay-television licensees in Indonesia, depend on AsiaSat 2's launch.

"The delays are a considerable problem for STAR," said

Simon Twiston-Davies, Asian editor for Multichannel News, a publication focused on cable and satellite television. "It means their pay-TV revenue streams won't come on until October of this year or even the spring of 1996."

The postponement was due to investigations into two mishaps, the first involving a satellite — the same Series 7000 version built by Martin Marietta Corp. that AsiaSat 1 plans to use for AsiaSat 2 — owned by AT&T Corp. After a successful launch last September, AT&T lost contact with the satellite.

One probe found that the satellite was destroyed because of an explosion in its hydrazine propulsion mechanism. "It has led to some minor procedural changes for our satellite," said Sabrina Cribbon, AsiaSat 2's marketing manager.

Then, in January, a satellite called Apstar-2 — built by Hughes Aircraft Co. and owned by APT Satellite Co. of Hong Kong — exploded in mid-air about a minute after its launch from the Xichang launching center in China's Sichuan province. AsiaSat 1 is to use the same type of rocket — the Chinese-built Long March 2E — to propel AsiaSat 2 into orbit.

"If the investigation finds that there was a failure of the launch vehicle, AsiaSat 2 could be delayed for another half

year, Miss Cribbon of AsiaSatellite said. "There is always that risk."

She said the results of an inquiry into the Apstar-2 explosion by Hughes and China Great Wall Industry Corp., the launching company involved, were expected in the next two to three months.

A STAR spokesman, meanwhile, said the company's top priority was to make sure the AsiaSat 2 launch was successful even if that meant delays.

Mr. Twiston-Davies added

that the postponements must be causing Mr. Murdoch to "grind his teeth." Star has been losing about \$20 million a year, according to the most recent figures released by News Corp.

The Apstar-2 failure also damaged the hopes of many of STAR TV's competitors who had booked space on it. Many have since turned to other satellites, particularly to Indonesia's Palapa-C, scheduled for launch toward the end of this year.

STAR Radio to Debut
STAR Radio, Rupert Mur-

doch's Asian satellite radio service, will begin broadcasting on March 30, Reuters reported Thursday from Hong Kong.

A sister of the pan-Asian broadcaster STAR-TV, STAR Radio will begin its broadcasts using the AsiaSat 1 satellite, said Mike Mackay, STAR Radio's general manager.

STAR radio will offer broadcasts in Mandarin Chinese in Northern Asia and broadcasts in English over Southern Asia and the Middle East.

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SPORTS

UConn Roms in Opener, Arizona, Oklahoma Upset

The Associated Press
Connecticut, bigger and better at every position, opened with a torrid 15-0 run against Tennessee-Chattanooga, turned up the pressure even more to build a 25-point lead before halftime, and romped to a 100-71 victory Thursday in the NCAA Western Regional in Salt Lake City.

Ranked No. 1 a month ago before dropping to No. 8, the Huskies put on a display of the power and speed that carried them to a 15-0 mark at the start of the season.

Donny Marshall scored 22 points and Ray Allen added 18 to lead Connecticut, which held the Moccasins scoreless for the first 4:45 of the game. Mario Hanson, who finished with 28 points, and Brandon Born, who wound up with 23, scored all but two of Tennessee-Chattanooga's points in the first half.

Connecticut looked impressive inside and from 3-point range. Seven-footer Travis Knight clogged up the middle, grabbing 13 rebounds and keeping the Moccasins from driving to the basket.

Wake Forest 79, North Carolina A&T 47: Tim Duncan scored 21 points and Randolph Childress had 15 as top-seeded Wake Forest cruised through the opening round of the East Regional in Baltimore.

The third-ranked Demon Deacons won their 11th straight game by holding the 16th-seeded Aggies to 30 percent shooting, 22 percent in the first half.

Wake Forest, one of four teams to tie for the Atlantic

Coast Conference regular-season title and its tournament champion, was up 16-5 after eight minutes as North Carolina A&T, the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament champion, missed 10 of its first 12 shots.

With Duncan, who finished with 12 rebounds and was 8-for-12 from the field, dominating inside and Childress, who had six assists, making his first four shots, Wake Forest led by 35-17 at halftime.

Miami, Ohio 71, Arizona 62: Devin Davis scored 24 points against Arizona's weakened front line as Miami of Ohio built a double-digit lead and held on for the upset in the Midwest Regional in Dayton, Ohio.

Miami, located less than an hour's drive away, fed off the home crowd for its first NCAA tournament victory since 1978. The Redskins had lost their last four first-round games.

Arizona cut a 10-point deficit to 2 in the final minute, but Davis sank a basket and three free throws in the final 29 seconds. The 6-7 forward had a season-high 15 rebounds against Arizona's front line, which got into foul trouble early.

The Wildcats, a Final Four team last year, have lost in the first round three times in the past four years. Damon Stoudamire, their All-America guard,

scoring a subpar 18 points on 6-of-18 shooting.

No. 13 Virginia 96, Nichols St. 72: Harold Deane recovered from a rocky first half to score 21 points as No. 13 Virginia won in the Midwest Regional.

Deane, who scored 15 second-half points, made 12-of-15 free throws. Three teammates joined him in double figures: Junior Burroughs with 16 points, Curtis Staples with 15 and Norman Nolan with 11.

Manhattan 77, Oklahoma 67: Reserve Jeronimo Bucero scored all 14 of his points in the second half as Manhattan pulled off an upset in the Southeast Regional in Memphis, Tennessee.

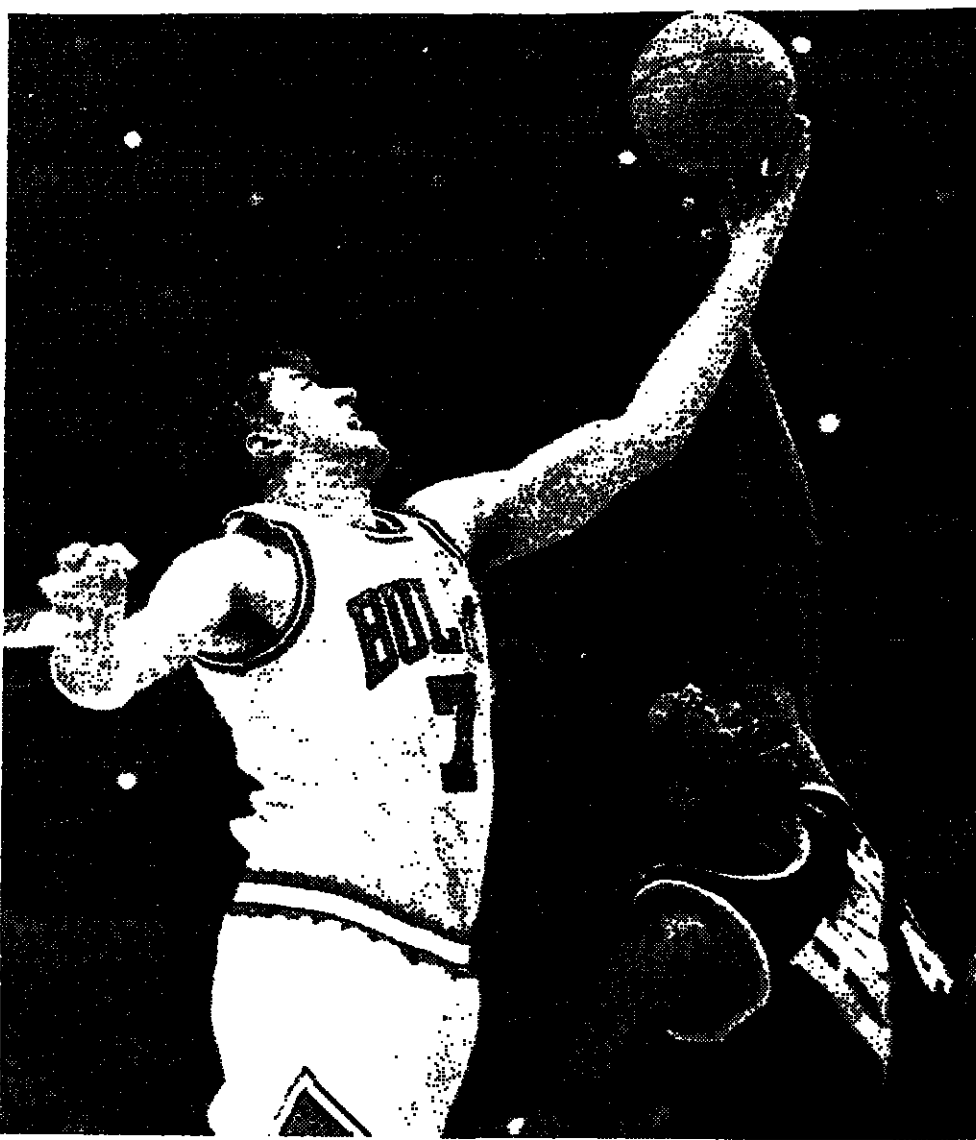
Bucero led a strong bench effort for the 13th-seeded Jaspers, who were criticized after receiving an at-large berth out of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Ryan Minor, the Big Eight player of the year, scored 24 for Oklahoma, but went about 18 minutes without a field goal.

Arizona St. 81, Ball St. 66: Ron Riley scored 24 points and Mario Bennett 21 as Arizona State won in Memphis, keeping its coach, Bill Frieder, undefeated in the NCAA tournament's first round.

Frieder is 6-0 in a career that included four NCAA trips with Michigan.

Ball State, seeded 12th, fell behind early as the Cardinals missed six of their first eight shots and turned the ball over seven times in the first eight minutes.



BULLISH TIMES—Toni Kukoc, who also got a career-high 13 rebounds, scored two of his 18 points over the Hawks' Grant Long as the Bulls won for the eighth time in their last nine home games. Pete Myers, who replaced Michael Jordan last season and is most likely to be replaced if Jordan returns to the Bulls, scored a season-high 14 points. As for Jordan, he was to practice again Thursday with the Bulls, but the question of whether he is returning to play remained unanswered. "We don't know what Michael is going to do," said guard B.J. Armstrong. "He probably doesn't even know what he's going to do."

Iowa Beats DePaul In NIT First Round

The Associated Press

No matter that it was the National Invitation Tournament instead of the NCAA, the crowd went crazy for Iowa.

In a game played in Moline, Illinois, the Hawkeyes defeated DePaul, 96-87, Wednesday night in the first round of the NIT before 10,673 fans.

"In my nine years, I've never seen such an unbelievable show of support," said the Hawkeyes' coach, Tom Davis.

The game was moved across the Mississippi River, about 65 miles (about 100 kilometers) from the Iowa campus, because Carver-Hawkeye Arena was booked with the NCAA wrestling championships.

Iowa won in its first post-season NIT appearance as Chris Kingsbury scored 19 points.

New Mexico State 97, Colorado 83: The visiting Aggies began the game with a 15-0 run and never trailed. Rodney Walker scored 28 points for New Mexico State and Mack Tuck had 28 for Colorado.

Coppin State 75, St. Joseph's 68: Keith Carmichael made two 3-pointers for the visiting Eagles in overtime after St. Joe's lost an eight-point lead in the last 5 1/2 minutes of regulation.

The game began more than an hour late because Coppin State's Mario McGriff shattered a backboard while dunking during warm-ups.

Marquette 83, Auburn 71: Aaron Hutchins, a freshman reserve guard averaging only 3.4 points, scored a career-high 20

for Marquette while host Auburn went nine minutes without a basket in the stretch.

Penn State 62, Miami 56: Penn State rallied from a 20-point deficit with 14 minutes left at home. Constantin Popa, Miami's 7-foot-3-inch (2.2-meter) center, fouled out with four minutes left and the Hurricanes ahead, 51-46. John Amaechi had 21 points for the Nittany Lions.

Cansins 83, Seton Hall 71: Host Cansins ended a 14-game losing streak against teams from the Big East as Craig Wise got 28 points. Adrian Griffin scored 24 for Seton Hall.

Washington State 94, Texas Tech 82: Isaac Fontaine scored 32 points for the host Cougars while Lance Hughes got 23 for Texas Tech.

There's Reason For Long Odds

The Associated Press

HALLANDALE, Fla.—Bettors at Gulfstream Park were in for a 12-1 longshot to a 3-2 choice didn't get a run for their money. Not even a little one.

When the gates opened, Tescanourt, with jockey Jean-Luc Samyn in saddle, walked out, took two steps, turned left and simply chose not to run.

There were no refunds because Tescanourt was in the gate properly and came out when the bell rang.

NFL Owners Vote Down Rams' Move to St. Louis

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

PHOENIX, Arizona—The other owners of the National Football League's teams have overwhelmingly rejected moving the Los Angeles Rams to St. Louis, Missouri. The Rams' owner, Georgia Frontiere, called the vote "arbitrary and capricious and not based on precedent" and then said that "the last chapter has yet to be written."

With 21 owners voting against, 3 in favor and 6 abstentions, the league essentially told the Rams they would have to play next season in Anaheim, California, the city they spurned in favor of a new, \$260 million domed stadium in St. Louis, a city that was poised to welcome the team with open arms and wallets.

Though Frontiere declined to say what her next step would be, Missouri's attorney general, Jay Nixon, had said earlier that he would file an antitrust suit against the league if the move was rejected.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said the league still hoped to avoid litigation.

"We're not trying to be confrontational," he said. "We're trying to be sensible and fair."

"It's a question of balancing the interests of two groups of fans we value very much," he added. "We're still going to address those concerns."

Tagliabue said owners were opposed to the move based on three main issues. The first involved the sharing of \$70 million in personal seat licenses raised by St. Louis for fans to guarantee a season ticket. The second was the objection of the Fox television network, which had paid \$1.58 billion for the right to televise National Football Conference games through the 1997 season.

The third involved the Rams' apparent unwillingness to contribute to a not-for-profit trust fund that the league wanted them to establish to assure a major renovation of an existing stadium or the construction of a new one in Southern California after the Rams left.

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Orlando 48 16 790 48
New York 40 21 554 48
Boston 38 23 537 48
Miami 33 29 514 48
Philadelphia 17 45 274 30

Central Division

Charlotte 39 24 419 48
Indiana 38 24 413 48
Cleveland 35 28 574 30
Chicago 33 31 516 48
Atlanta 31 32 492 48
Milwaukee 24 40 372 15
Detroit 21 40 365 16

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Utah 47 16 746 48
San Antonio 42 18 700 30
Houston 38 23 613 48
Denver 34 28 588 17
Dallas 24 36 400 15
Minnesota 17 46 270 30

Pacific Division

Phoenix 42 16 746 48
Seattle 40 19 689 48
L.A. Lakers 38 24 613 48
Portland 34 28 588 17
Sacramento 31 31 516 48
Golden State 24 40 372 15
L.A. Clippers 14 50 279 30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

Portland 42 16 746 48
Seattle 40 19 689 48
L.A. Lakers 38 24 613 48
Portland 34 28 588 17
Sacramento 31 31 516 48
Golden State 24 40 372 15
L.A. Clippers 14 50 279 30

Southwest Division

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WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

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MLB Standings

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Milwaukee 24 40 372 15
Detroit 21 40 365 16

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Utah 47 16 746 48
San Antonio 42 18 700 30
Houston 38 23 613 48
Denver 34 28 588 17
Dallas 24 36 400 15
Minnesota 17 46 270 30

Pacific Division

Phoenix 42 16 746 48
Seattle 40 19 689 48
L.A. Lakers 38 24 613 48
Portland 34 28 588 17
Sacramento 31 31 516 48
Golden State 24 40 372 15
L.A. Clippers 14 50 279 30

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Philadelphia 17 45 274 30

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Indiana 38 24 413 48
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Western Conference

Seizinger Wins Race And Super-G Crown

The Associated Press
BORMIO, Italy — Katja Seizinger of Germany won her third straight World Cup super-giant slalom title and moved atop the overall standings Thursday by winning the last super-G race of the season.

Seizinger, 22, the Olympic downhill champion and a speed-race specialist, was timed in 1 minute, 20.93 seconds down the 2,030-meter Stelvio course.

Renate Götschl of Austria was 0.20 seconds slower, with Florence Massada of France third, 0.33 seconds back.

"I'm happy I won a little cup. It was my goal for today," said Seizinger, who in 1992, '93 and '94 won three straight downhill titles. "The course was really difficult. It was one of the most difficult this season. You can see it from the number of people who fell or went out. It's

Street Falls Hard, But Only Bruised

The Associated Press
BORMIO, Italy — Picabo Street, the World Cup downhill champion, survived a spectacular spill Thursday with only a badly bruised right shoulder.

The 22-year-old U.S. skier was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Sondrio and returned to the team's hotel two hours later. The U.S. team's doctor, Lincoln Avery, said X-rays and CT scans had determined that there were no fractures.

"She's okay physically. Mentally, she's tired," Avery said, adding that "it would appear she may have suffered something when she fell, causing the bruising."

Street lost control off a bump as she neared the end of the super giant slalom race. She landed on her shoulder, lost one ski and crashed through a gate before coming to a stop on the fresh snow. Race officials immobilized her neck before taking her by sled to the finish line.

"She was conscious all the time, she stayed very calm and made a course report to Hilary Lindh by radio as she was being attended to," said Tom Kelly, the U.S. team's director of communications.

"The problem is that when you have a lot of confidence, one takes risks you should not take," said the U.S. alpine director, Paul Major.

Shannon Nobis of the United States injured her left knee when she fell near the bottom of the twisty course. Initial reports indicated she might have torn ligaments.

On Wednesday, Street won her fifth consecutive downhill and sixth of the season, to wrap up a sensational World Cup campaign and become the first American woman to win the downhill title.

She and her teammates, plus the World Cup overall champion, Alberto Tomba, had celebrated their triumphs in a local disco Wednesday night.



Picabo Street lost her balance coming off a bump in the super giant slalom.

Arsenal Advances, With Zaragoza, to Winners' Semis

The Associated Press
Defending champion Arsenal advanced to the semifinals of the UEFA Cup Thursday night as a 1-0 victory in Auxerre that was provided by Ian Wright's 16th minute goal.

The teams played to a 1-1 draw two weeks ago in England and Arsenal advanced on a 2-1 aggregate. It was Arsenal's 24th consecutive unbeaten match in European competition, and was paced by two returns to the starting lineup.

Wright scored the only goal when he rifled a shot from outside the penalty area to the corner of the net. He had been dropped from the lineup against Blackburn last week for the first time in his three-and-a-half year career with Arsenal.

The English striker took advantage of an Auxerre mistake as two French defenders let the ball get past them. Wright pounced on it and punched home a left-footed shot.

Although Auxerre was on the attack most of the time, it could not get by Arsenal goalie David Seaman. He missed Arsenal's last two games after cracking a rib for the third time in 10 months.

Auxerre's best chance came in the 10th minute, when Algerian midfielder Moussa Saib hit the crossbar.

Zaragoza 2, Feyenoord 0: Miguel Pardeza and Santiago Aragon scored in the second half to put the home team into the tournament's semifinals on a 2-1 aggregate score.

Pardeza scored from 13 meters in the 59th minute, with a quick shot his left foot — not his usual shooting foot — that beat the Dutch team's goalie, Ed de Goey, low and to his left.

Aragon scored the goal that advanced the Spanish team in the 71st minute, striking a lobbing pass waist-high from 18 meters. The shot surprised de Goey, beating him to his right.

The Spaniards, needing to score, carried the play in the first half against a physically strong Dutch side content to play rugged defense after winning the first-leg match in Rotterdam, 1-0.

Zaragoza had two clear scoring chances in the first half. In the 30th minute, Juan Eduardo Esnaider shot wide from 18 meters after pulling de Goey out of position.

In first-half injury time, Aragon rifled a free kick from 25 meters that de Goey managed to stop with a lunging save.

Porto 0, Sampdoria 1: The quarterfinal in Portugal went into extra time with the aggregate score 1-1.

Runggaldier Wins a Title, Kröll a Race

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
BORMIO, Italy — Peter Runggaldier of Italy clinched the men's super giant slalom title Thursday by placing second to Richard Kröll of Austria in the last such race this season.

Kröll, the last of 24 skiers down the 2,358-meter long Stelvio course, was clocked 1 minute, 37.37 seconds as Italians were already celebrating victory.

His third World Cup victory came a day after his 27th birthday and five years after his previous giant slalom victories in Alta Badia and Veysonnaz.

Runggaldier, who had the No. 6 bib, was 0.42 seconds slower than Kröll.

Another Italian, Werner Perathoner, edged Kyle Rasmussen of the United States for third place. Perathoner was timed in 1:38.22, Rasmussen in 1:38.23.

Günther Mader of Austria, in the running, with Runggaldier and Perathoner for the super-G title, finished seventh in the race and second in the specialty standings.

"I'm a bit upset for the missed victory in the race, but I'm overjoyed for the title," Runggaldier said. "I'm a downhill and I did not expect I could win in this discipline."

He finished with 332 points, 82 ahead of Mader.

His title was the third won by the Italian men's team in the 1994-95 World Cup, following Alberto Tomba's overall and slalom crowns.

Tomba is also shooting for the giant slalom title at the finals.

A.J. Kitt, the American who was second in Wednesday's downhill, missed a gate and did not finish.

U.S. team officials said Olympic downhill champion Tommy Moe had undergone surgery to rebuild his anterior cruciate ligament and repair damaged cartilage in his right knee, injured in a fall last week in Kvitfjell, Norway. The surgeon said that Moe could be skiing again by September.

SIDELINES

Tapie Accuses Primorac of Lying

VALENCIENNES, France (AP) — Bernard Tapie, the former president of Olympic Marseille, accused the former coach of the Valenciennes soccer team of lying about a meeting in his office as the bribery trial completed its fourth day.

Primorac has claimed that he had a meeting in Tapie's office in Paris on June 17, 1993, and was offered money and a coaching job to say that he was behind the match-fixing scheme.

"He never noted the golden football boot on my desk," Tapie told the court. "He never noticed my model boat which is two meters long. He said he saw a fat secretary. The heaviest secretary I have weighs 61 kilos (134 pounds). I have photos. You will see she is not fat."

• In England, soccer players Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were back at practice Thursday after their release on bail. Police, who are investigating bribery and game-rigging allegations, said the five persons who have been interrogated are to return for more questioning on July 4.

Mansell Could Miss Opening 2 Prix

LONDON (AP) — Former world champion driver Nigel Mansell could miss the first two races of the Formula One season because the cockpit of his new McLaren car is too small.

McLaren said Thursday it hoped to modify the Mercedes-powered MP4/10 car in time for the opening Grand Prix in Brazil on March 26. But a spokesman acknowledged it might be necessary to build a new chassis, which could take six weeks.

The Pacific Grand Prix, the 14th of the season's 16 races, will be held Oct. 22 at Aida, western Japan, organizers said Thursday. The race was originally set for April 16, but was put off because of the Jan. 17 earthquake in nearby Kobe.

For the Record

Master Oats, ridden by Norman Williamson, romped to a 20-length victory in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, making Williamson and Kim Bailey the first trainer and jockey in 45 years to win both the Gold Cup and the Champion Hurdle. Alderbrook won the Cheltenham Festival's other prestige race on Tuesday.

Sam Torrance and Steve Richardson, both Ryder Cup players, were disqualified at the Portuguese Open. Torrance for signing an incorrect score card, Richardson for missing his tee time after play was resumed. High winds kept the first round from being completed.

Boris Becker and Michael Stich were named by the British press as the best players in the world to play against the Netherlands later this month.

Paul Kipkoech, the former 10,000-meter world champion, died of cerebral malaria and tuberculosis, Kenyan officials said.



As one official attended to Street on the Stelvio course, another called for a stretcher.

In Champions Cup, Newcomer PSG Is the People's Choice

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — It is no coincidence that the most exciting of the European Cup semifinals happens to be the one with no experience of winning it. While fellow contenders AC Milan and Bayern Munich have struggled to uphold their reputations, Paris St. Germain, the new people's choice, is simply going for it.

Its 2-1 comeback victory over Barcelona in the return quarterfinal leg Wednesday night was an advancement of several dimensions — sweeping PSG past the defending finalist by a 3-2 aggregate with a semifinal next month against defending champion AC Milan; emotionally, it was a victory for French confidence, and affirmation of positive, attacking soccer.

Seven minutes from the end, Barcelona's fatigue resulted in a free kick by Vincent Guerin snaking 20 yards to just inside the left post. The people had anticipated just that, but they couldn't believe it; then they could be heard believing it.

"It's the greatest moment in my life as a footballer," Guerin said. "It was a fantastic match, and we are really going to savor this."

PSG has now worked its way

up to a third consecutive European semifinal from the UEFA Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup of the last two years. No opponent can match its European record this season, the only non-victory its 1-1 draw in Barcelona in the first leg. Yet PSG's tradition is no match for the other semifinalists, who have shared the Cup 12 times.

"We've got AC Milan in the semifinals, another great club like Barca," said PSG's coach, Luis Fernandez. "But on top of that, Milan are the holders. It's something to have got to this stage of the competition."

Champion of Europe twice in the 1960s and four times in the last six seasons, Milan advanced on a 2-0 aggregate after holding Benfica to a scoreless draw in Lisbon. In the semifinal legs of April 5 and 19 — the home teams will be drawn Friday — PSG is unlikely to meet a defense as friendly as Barcelona's.

na's. Milan absorbed constant pressure from Benfica, which admittedly gave in when substitute Isaias Soares struck both posts in the 76th minute.

While suffering in the Italian championship, Milan has refused to lose touch with Europe — though docked two points and made to play two Champions League matches away from home for a bottle of Otto Korad in Milan. The seven Milan players in danger of suspension avoided the yellow card on Wednesday. But PSG's captain, Antoine Kombouare, will be suspended from the first semifinal leg, adding to the French team's defensive troubles.

Ajax, the European champions of the 1971-73 Johan Cruyff era, had little trouble in Amsterdam against Hajduk Split, beating the Croatian champion, 3-0, on a pair of goals by defender Frank de Boer.

Ajax will now brace for its semifinal with unpredictable Bayern Munich: sixth place in the Bundesliga, worthy of only a draw with German weakling Duisburg last weekend, and castigated by the club's president, Franz Beckenbauer, as "the worst Bayern team of all time."

After a scoreless draw in the opening leg at Munich, his club visited IFK Gothenburg without the injured Jean-Pierre Papin, Lothar Matthäus and Alain Suter. Twenty minutes in, the Bayern goalkeeper Sven Schuster was sent off for bringing down Mikael Martinsson outside the penalty area, leaving Bayern with 10 men — who then assembled a 2-0 lead within eight minutes of the second half.

Gothenburg had beaten Barcelona and Manchester United in Ullevi stadium, but the best it could do was a 2-2 draw in the final minutes, allowing Bayern to advance on away-goals.

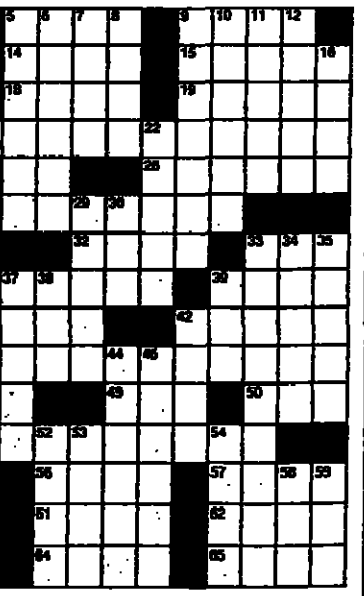
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Poke
5 Alternative to whole
9 Nutty

13 CNN screen word
14 One size smaller than English
15 "To — human"

17 Candi
18 News piece
19 Base neutralizers
20 1970 David Lean film
21 Planet
22 Ultra soave
23 Runs
24 1970 Clint Eastwood film
25 Broadway's "Everybody's Got — But Me"
26 Pastoral settings
27 60's-70's police drama, with "The"
28 Future queen, maybe
29 "You — Hiding!"
30 Horse of a certain color
31 — Saud (Saudi king)
32 Tire
33 Latin land
34 "Where the hills meet to eat," in old radio
35 Lower
36 O'Hara's Joey
37 Date
38 Notorious fire stories
39 Intermediate, in law
40 San Francisco's — Tower
41 Symbol of servitude
42 Whiter willow
43 Author Ambler
44 Meeting of Corp.
45 Extreme poverty

46 Paradoxical Greek
47 Gaze grp.
48 Stretch of turbulent water
49 Enlarged
50 Gaiety
51 Book parts
52 Hardly high art
53 In the cooler
54 Doll's cry
55 Snoopy and family
56 Fallen features
57 Pictitious
58 Joined forces (with)
59 Former states: Abbr.
60 — sow, so shall...
61 W.W. II craft
62 Gifford's cousin
63 Clinic program
64 Alphabet trio
65 Gray work
66 Stimp's TV pal
67 Gave up: Var.
68 Vermont city
69 Vacuous
70 Actress Woodard
71 U.K. defenders
72 Prepare to drag
73 Indy 500 pit workers
74 Magnesium silicate
75 Hive loaters
76 Kim Philby activity
77 Likes and dislikes
78 Bullets
79 Prepare, as a turkey



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Solution to Puzzle of March 16

DOWN	ACROSS
1 Gaze grp.	15 "To — human"
2 Stretch of turbulent water	16 Base neutralizers
3 Enlarged	17 Candi
4 Gaiety	18 News piece
5 Book parts	19 W.W. II craft
6 Hardly high art	20 1970 David Lean film
7 In the cooler	21 Planet
8 Doll's cry	22 Ultra soave
9 Snoopy and family	23 Runs
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The Berlin Wall Movie – Still a Divider

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BERLIN
FEBRUAR 1995



Filmmaker von Trotta (second from left) with cast members at the Berlin film festival.

"Hollywood would already have made 20 films about it," she said in an interview. "Maybe it takes time to get over the shock and work it through."

had spring and summer. There were days when the secret police didn't come around. The film makes it seem that we were persecuted every minute of our lives."

Queen Elizabeth is expected to bestow the Order of Merit on President Nelson Mandela during her visit to South Africa which begins Sunday. The Order of Merit ranks above the various knighthoods but does not bear a title.

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today			Tomorrow		
	High	Low	W	High	Low	W
Algarve	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Amsterdam	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Ankara	18/59	10/54	c	11/62	1/74	s
Antalya	18/59	10/54	c	11/62	1/74	s
Barcelona	14/57	10/30	sh	18/61	12/53	sh
Belgrade	11/52	7/30	pc	14/57	9/37	pc
Berlin	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Buenos Aires	19/64	13/57	pc	20/68	14/56	pc
Casablanca	19/64	13/57	pc	20/68	14/56	pc
Cape Town	19/64	13/57	pc	20/68	14/56	pc
Chengdu	9/48	1/38	r	4/39	-1/31	pc
Chongqing	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Delhi	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Des Moines	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Dublin	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Edinburgh	7/44	3/37	sh	8/46	-1/31	pc
Geneva	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Frankfurt	7/44	3/37	sh	8/46	-1/31	pc
Glasgow	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Hankow	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Helsinki	-2/29	-4/25	sh	-1/31	-7/20	sh
Interlaken	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Jakarta	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
London	16/51	8/40	pc	17/62	12/53	s
Los Angeles	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Madrid	18/54	7/44	pc	18/64	10/50	pc
Moscow	12/63	8/44	pc	18/61	8/46	pc
Munich	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Nairobi	8/46	3/37	sh	11/52	3/37	sh
Norway	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Oslo	5/41	-2/26	sh	4/39	1/34	sh
Paris	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Peking	13/55	7/27	sh	12/53	3/37	sh
Prague	8/43	3/37	sh	7/44	1/34	sh
Rabat	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Rome	14/57	8/44	pc	18/64	10/50	pc
Sao Paulo	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Shanghai	2/25	1/34	sh	3/37	-3/27	sh
Stockholm	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Switzerland	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Taipei	11/62	8/48	pc	14/57	8/46	pc
Tientsin	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Vancouver	11/62	8/48	pc	14/57	8/46	pc
Venice	11/62	8/48	pc	14/57	8/46	pc
Winnipeg	17/62	11/52	pc	19/66	13/55	s
Wuhan	5/41	3/37	sh	7/44	-1/31	sh
Zurich	11/62	8/48	pc	14/57	8/46	pc

Oceania	Today			Tomorrow		
	High	Low	W	High	Low	W
Auckland	21/71	14/57	pc	22/71	13/56	pc

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

North America

A cooling trend will bring temperatures back toward normal in the East. Florida will have a day or two of wet weather. Rain will dampen Chicago and Toronto, perhaps ending as snow. Southern California will be dry as rain eludes by to the north.

Europe

Rain will move away from the U.K. and chilly northwest winds will blow over the weekend. Cool air will also sweep much of the continent while some showers and thunderstorms develop near the British Isles. Good, blanket northern sections of Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Asia

Japan and Korea will cold to start the week, then a moderating trend occur. Cold weather will continue in northeast China. Southeastern China will warm and humid with rain showers. Southern Malaysia will be humid with stray thunder storms.

Middle East

	Today		Tomorrow	
	High	Low	High	Low
Abu Dhabi	38/62	27/71	38/62	18/64
Bahra	15/68	12/23	18/69	13/62
Cairo	36/71	13/55	33/73	12/63
Damascus	15/68	8/14	17/62	6/42
Jordan	16/61	6/46	17/62	4/48
Lugad	30/86	16/57	28/100	7/58
Riyadh	27/80	15/52	28/85	17/62

Legend: 1-sunny, 2-partly cloudy, 3-cloudy, sh-showers, th-thunderstorms, 1-rain, 2-snow flurries, 3-heavy snow.

Africa

	Today		Tomorrow	
	High	Low	High	Low
Algiers	18/61	12/50	30/64	14/57
Cairo Town	28/79	16/61	41/76	17/62
Conakara	18/68	9/48	21/70	15/55
Harar	23/12/53	25/77	25/77	15/55
Lagos	31/84	24/80	32/89	27/82
Nairobi	22/71	16/52	24/75	15/55
Tunis	17/62	7/41	19/69	12/50

Asia		Oceania		Temperature	
	High	Low	W	High	C
	Temp	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
Bangkok	33.61	24.75	pc	32.89	24.75
Manila	31.46	23.54	pc	30.80	23.54
Hong Kong	32.71	19.64	pc	32.97	19.66
Seoul	33.73	23.73	pc	32.89	23.73
Singapore	27.80	25.85	pc	26.84	25.85
Macau	32.87	23.02	pc	32.65	23.07
Taipei	32.85	23.85	pc	32.85	23.85
Shanghai	32.88	24.75	pc	31.88	23.73
Thailand	31.70	13.55	pc	31.70	13.53
Japan	18.54	7.44	pc	14.97	6.43
Latin America					
Buenos Aires	28.82	17.62	pc	29.84	19.89
Ottawa	28.82	17.62	pc	30.86	19.84
Lima	25.77	21.71	pc	26.79	21.79
San Jose	28.82	17.62	pc	29.84	19.89
San Salvador	28.82	17.62	pc	29.82	23.73
Santiago	24.75	11.62	pc	25.80	12.54
North America					
Anchorage	4.16	18.2	pc	3.67	13.49
Albuquerque	25.77	12.53	pc	26.88	9.48
Boston	8.49	1.74	pc	6.46	2.35
Chicago	12.53	1.74	pc	7.35	3.37
Dallas	21.60	7.27	pc	19.69	3.35
Denver	11.62	1.73	pc	12.53	3.37
Honolulu	28.82	17.62	pc	29.84	19.89
Houston	25.77	11.62	pc	26.79	13.56
Los Angeles	28.82	17.62	pc	29.84	19.89
Memphis	26.79	19.62	pc	26.79	16.61
Minneapolis	6.43	1.74	pc	5.48	2.35
New York	25.77	11.62	pc	26.79	13.56
Phoenix	25.77	19.65	pc	26.79	19.65
Portland	11.62	1.74	pc	12.53	3.37
San Francisco	22.89	6.43	pc	22.89	16.61
San Jose	18.54	9.48	pc	18.54	16.61
Seattle	17.62	1.74	pc	16.61	1.74
Toronto	6.43	1.01	pc	7.44	0.92
Washington	11.62	1.74	pc	12.53	3.37

Resort	Days Open	Lifts	Skis	Skis	Snow Covered	Last Visit	Comments
Andorra							
<i>Pas de la Casa Soldeu</i>	75	110	Fair	Open	Hard	8/3	<i>Resort open, handpacked snow</i>
	50	120	Fair	Open	Barring	8/3	<i>All lifts and runs open, some ice</i>
Austria							
<i>Ischgl</i>	80	200	Good	Open	Poor	16/3	<i>All 84 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Kitzbühel</i>	38	165	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>All 64 lifts open, powdery snow</i>
<i>Obertauern</i>	50	140	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>21/22 lifts open, good piste sking</i>
<i>Saialbach</i>	40	135	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>38/40 lifts open, improved pistes</i>
<i>St. Anton</i>	80	400	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>All 32 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
France							
<i>Alpe d'Huez</i>	220	460	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>77/182 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Les Arcs</i>	220	440	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>72/175 lifts open, great skiing</i>
<i>Avoriaz</i>	250	380	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>All 48 lifts open, new snow</i>
<i>Chamonix</i>	100	850	Good	Open	Fair	16/3	<i>46/48 lifts open, great skiing</i>
<i>Courchevel</i>	195	345	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>All 81 lifts open, good skiing</i>
<i>Les Deux Alpes</i>	120	400	Good	Open	Fair	15/3	<i>60/63 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Megève</i>	100	350	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>35/41 lifts open, new snow</i>
<i>Meribel</i>	150	355	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>All lifts and pistes open</i>
<i>La Plagne</i>	220	410	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>105/113 lifts open, new snow</i>
<i>Serre Chevalier</i>	30	175	Good	Open	Fair	15/3	<i>All 72 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Tignes</i>	230	300	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>41/46 lifts open, widely high up</i>
<i>Val d'Isère</i>	150	350	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>All lifts open, great skiing</i>
<i>Val Thorens</i>	250	370	Good	Open	Poor	18/3	<i>Most lifts open, great skiing</i>
Germany							
<i>Garmisch</i>	5	280	Good	Closed	Poor	16/3	<i>32/39 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Oberstdorf</i>	10	300	Good	Open	Poor	15/3	<i>24/27 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
Italy							
<i>Bormio</i>	40	140	Fair	Open	Poor	8/3	<i>15/16 lifts and 25km of piste open</i>
<i>Cervinia</i>	100	400	Good	Open	Fair	15/3	<i>24/27 lifts open, fresh snow</i>
<i>Cortina</i>	25	100	Good	Open	Poor	8/3	<i>40/40 lifts open, mostly good</i>

Report	Depth	U	M	P	Res.	Shore	Last	Comments
Selva	35	120	Good	Open	Pctd	5/3	76/78 lbs open, still runs open	
Sestreite	50	90	Fair	Open	Pctd	15/3	All lbs open, good sitting available	
Norway								
Gello	135	135	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	All 18 lbs open, great sitting	
Spain								
Baquera Barot	70	95	Fair	Open	Spring	5/3	All lbs open, spring sitting	
Switzerland								
Arnos	90	180	Good	Open	Var	16/3	All lbs open, mostly good	
Carns Montana	200	400	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	41/43 lbs open, fresh snow	
Devo	60	620	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	All 35 lbs open, powdery snow	
Grindelwald	35	620	Good	Pctd	15/3	Ltts open, new snow on hard base		
Klosters	70	620	Good	Open	Var	15/3	All 35 lbs open, great sitting	
St.Moritz	30	110	Good	Open	Var	5/3	All 60 lbs open, good grooming	
Verbier	55	600	Good	Open	Var	16/3	37/39 lbs open, fresh snow	
Wengen	50	170	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	22/23 lbs open, fresh snow	
Zermatt	110	350	Good	Open	Var	16/3	72/73 lbs open, most runs good	
U.S.								
Aspen	190	200	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 8 lbs open	
Breckenridge	180	190	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 17 lbs open	
Marathon	330	370	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	19/20 lbs open	
Steamboat	150	180	Good	Open	Var	14/3	All 20 lbs open	
Telluride	205	220	Good	Open	Var	13/3	All 10 lbs open	
Vail	160	180	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 25 lbs open	
Canada								
Whistler	110	325	Good	Open	Pwdr	15/3	All 26 lbs and 200 runs open	

Key: L,J,D=Depth in cm on lower and upper slopes, Mts, P=Mass-Mountain-Mass psses, Res. =Reservoir, L=Lead, D=Depth in center to report village, Ar=Artificial snow.

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Report	Depth	U	M	P	Res.	Shore	Last	Comments
Selva	35	120	Good	Open	Pctd	5/3	76/78 lbs open, still runs open	
Sestreite	50	90	Fair	Open	Pctd	15/3	All lbs open, good sitting available	
Norway								
Gello	135	135	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	All 18 lbs open, great sitting	
Spain								
Baquera Barot	70	95	Fair	Open	Spring	5/3	All lbs open, spring sitting	
Switzerland								
Arnos	90	180	Good	Open	Var	16/3	All lbs open, mostly good	
Carns Montana	200	400	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	41/43 lbs open, fresh snow	
Devo	60	620	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	All 35 lbs open, powdery snow	
Grindelwald	35	620	Good	Pctd	15/3	Ltts open, new snow on hard base		
Klosters	70	620	Good	Open	Var	15/3	All 35 lbs open, great sitting	
St.Moritz	30	110	Good	Open	Var	5/3	All 60 lbs open, good grooming	
Verbier	55	600	Good	Open	Var	16/3	37/39 lbs open, fresh snow	
Wengen	50	170	Good	Open	Pwdr	16/3	22/23 lbs open, fresh snow	
Zermatt	110	350	Good	Open	Var	16/3	72/73 lbs open, most runs good	
U.S.								
Aspen	190	200	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 8 lbs open	
Breckenridge	180	190	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 17 lbs open	
Marathon	330	370	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	19/20 lbs open	
Steamboat	150	180	Good	Open	Var	14/3	All 20 lbs open	
Telluride	205	220	Good	Open	Var	13/3	All 10 lbs open	
Vail	160	180	Good	Open	Pctd	14/3	All 25 lbs open	
Canada								
Whistler	110	325	Good	Open	Pwdr	15/3	All 26 lbs and 200 runs open	

Key: L,J,D=Depth in cm on lower and upper slopes, Mts, P=Mass-Mountain-Mass psses, Res. =Reservoir, L=Lead, D=Depth in center to report village, Ar=Artificial snow.

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